National Shortage of Rifampin capsules: Kansas Tuberculosis Control Action

This is to alert all Kansas Health Care Providers there is a shortage of the following anti-tuberculosis medications:

- Rifampin 150mg tablets (30 count bottles)
- Rifampin 300mg tablets (30, 60, and 100 count bottles)

Rifampin is a commonly used anti-tuberculosis antibiotic for treatment of tuberculosis infection (LTBI) as well as tuberculosis disease (in combination with other antibiotics Isoniazid, Ethambutol and Pyrazinamide).

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment TB Control Program (KDHE TB) has a limited supply of Rifampin on hand. Private pharmacies are also reporting decreased access to these medications at this time. Effective immediately, the following distribution practices will be changed to address the shortages of medication for an undetermined period of time.

Effective immediately, KDHE TB will prioritize shipment of Rifampin for active TB disease patients. All shipments for LTBI will be determined on a case by case basis based on the criteria listed below. One or more criterion must be met prior to KDHE TB providing shipment of Rifampin or Rifapentine to Kansas Providers:

- Individuals with confirmed or suspected active tuberculosis
- Individuals who have already begun treatment with Rifampin for LTBI and have completed two months of the four-month regimen
- High risk tuberculosis infection unable to take Isoniazid (INH)
  - Persons with medical conditions which increase likelihood of progression to tuberculosis disease (i.e. HIV/AIDS, diabetes, immunosuppression, TNF Alpha Inhibitor treatment)
  - Children under age five
  - Individuals with chest radiographic findings consistent with prior TB (i.e. fibrosis, scarring)
  - Recent confirmed close/high risk contact to a confirmed case of tuberculosis disease
  - Documented conversions from negative TB skin test or blood test (IGRA) within the past two years
  - Foreign-born persons from high risk countries who have arrived in the United States within the past year who have a positive TB blood test (IGRA)

Please contact the Infectious Disease Management Section at kdhe.idmanagement@ks.gov or call the KDHE TB Program (785-296-5589) until further notice when ordering Rifampin or Rifapentine.

KDHE TB requests providers strongly consider the following alternative options when prescribing treatment for TB infection or continuing treatment:
• Change otherwise healthy adults who are currently in the first month of Rifampin four month regimen to Rifapentine and INH weekly (3HP) Isoniazid six or nine month regimen for completion of treatment.
• Start all new LTBI patients on 3HP or Isoniazid six or nine month treatment regimen
• Postponing treatment for all individuals who do not meet the high risk criteria outlined above

For any questions regarding alternative treatment recommendations or other clinical/treatment questions, please contact Traci Dreiling, TB/STI Nurse Consultant (785-471-0084) or Kimberly Winans, Infectious Disease Management Section Chief (785-296-0739).

For current updates on the shortages, you may refer to the FDA Drug Shortage reports found here: Rifampin Capsules.

For any questions regarding this alert or the actions being taken, please contact Kimberly Winans, Infectious Disease Management Section Chief at 785-296-0739 or Kimberly.d.winans@ks.gov.