Primary Prevention of Rheumatic Fever
...and More

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RF Rates Across NZ

Rate per 100,000

- <1
- 1-2
- ≥3
- Insufficient data*

Numbers represent count of notifications in DHB region.

*Rates numerator had fewer than 5 cases.

Map created: 3 July 2013 - ESR
New Zealand Trends

Acute Rheumatic Fever Hospitalisations 1970-2010

- MOH: 0-30 year olds
- NZCYES: 0-24 year olds

New Zealand Child and Youth Epidemiology Service  www.otago.ac.nz/nzcyes
ARF Admissions by Ethnicity
0-24 Year Olds, NZ 2006-2010

Admissions per 100,000

- Pacific
- Maori
- European
- Asian / Indian

Year:
- 2000-01
- 2002-03
- 2004-05
- 2006-07
- 2008-09
- 2010
Government response

- Rheumatic fever target as part of the Better Public Services initiative
- More than 65 million over 6 years
- **Stop it**: Prevent transmission of Strep A sore throats
- **Treat it**: Treat Strep A throats quickly and effectively
Goals of national RFPP

1. To achieve equity of incidence and outcomes of rheumatic fever between Maori and Pacific children, and other NZ children

2. “By 2017, to reduce new episodes of rheumatic fever by two thirds to 1.4 cases per 100,000 population per year”
Reduced structural and functional household crowding

Raising awareness

Communications Campaign

Online Learning

Pacific Engagement Strategy

School-based programme

Primary care guideline/response

Auckland-wide Healthy Homes Initiative

SAS Fast Track scheme

Rapid Response Clinics

Free, rapid effective sore throat management

STOP GAS SORE THROATS

TREAT GAS SORE THROATS
Mana Kidz

- 61 decile 1-3 schools; >22k children
- Comprehensive school-based service
- Health teams (WSW, RN) at school 5 days a week
- Assessment and treatment – Standing Orders
- Child health assessments include hearing and vision, child protection, housing/health referrals, health education and promotion
Throat Swabbing

Most sore throats are caused by viruses
Only a throat swab can tell if the group A streptococcal bacteria is present
If a Maori or Pacific child or young person complains of a sore throat make sure they have a throat swab taken
ANY Maori or Pacific child/young person in South Auckland is at high risk and needs a throat swab, with antibiotics asap.
Medication Adherence is the significant challenge in the community...

- Penicillin V
- Amoxycillin
- Erythromycin Ethyl Succinate (EES)
  Single dose
- Benzathine Penicillin G (BPG) – 10 days of antibiotics
Success Story

- Primary school with school roll of 500 students
- A year ago: GAS+ rates – around 30%
- March: 8.5%
- Significant reduction in skin infections
- Overall health of students have improved