

3 May 2022

### Health Alert: Outbreak of Acute Post-Streptococcal Glomerulonephritis (APSGN)

Since the 28th March 2022, 6 cases of acute post-streptococcal glomerulonephritis (APSGN) have been notified from communities across the NT, with most of these being from Central Australia and the Barkly Region. There have been an additional 2 cases in neighbouring South Australian communities.

**Historical data suggest that when 4 or more cases of APSGN occur anywhere in the NT within a 2 week period, APSGN disease is more likely to be occurring Territory-wide.**

APSGN is an immunological syndrome affecting the kidneys, driven by a Group A Streptococcal infection in the preceding weeks. Group A Strep typically causes skin sores (impetigo) or sore throat (tonsillitis). **Therefore, clinicians need to be on the lookout for children with impetigo or tonsillitis and treat with appropriate antibiotics immediately. Scabies often are present and will need to be treated as infestation may promote the development of skin sores.**

APSGN commonly presents in children as puffy face and eyes and/or dark coloured urine. If children present with these symptoms please check the following:

- weight (look for sudden increase)
- BP (look for increase)
- urine (look for blood and protein)
- oedema (puffy face and eyes)
- skin sores

If clinic staff think there is a case of APSGN please make sure the GP or the DMO on call is made aware. **Public health action including contact tracing and prophylaxis is required for all probable and confirmed cases.**

For more information about the diagnosis, case management and the public health response see [the Northern Territory Guidelines for Acute Post-Streptococcal Glomerulonephritis](#).

Acute post-streptococcal glomerulonephritis (APSGN) is a legislated notifiable disease in the NT.

Thank you for your awareness and assistance in diagnosing cases of APSGN and promoting healthy skin practices.

Yours sincerely,

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