

5 July 2022

Dear Colleagues,

**Health Alert: Ongoing cases of Acute Post-Streptococcal Glomerulonephritis (APSGN)**

Year to date, there are nearly twice the expected number of cases of acute post-streptococcal glomerulonephritis (APSGN) based on the 5 year mean for the same period. In the month of June 2022, 9 cases of APSGN have been notified from regions across the NT with 4 occurring within a 2 week period. The cases have occurred in Central Australia, the Barkly, East Arnhem and Big Rivers regions.

**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. While the rate of APSGN renal impairment necessitating dialysis is low and of causing death very low, evidence does suggest APSGN may contribute to chronic renal failure. Group A Streptococcus 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 doctor on call is made aware. **Public health action including contact tracing and prophylaxis is required for all probable and confirmed cases of APSGN.** 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, allowing for public health responses and for promoting healthy skin practices.

Yours sincerely,

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