

Northern Territory of Australia

Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2012

**Diphtheria Management in Primary Care Scheduled Substance Treatment
Protocol (SSTP)
Approval**

I, Christopher Paul Burgess, Chief Health Officer:

- (a) under section 254(1) of the Act, approve each Scheduled substance treatment protocol specified in Schedule A;
- (b) under section 254(3) of the Act, state that each Schedule substance treatment protocol specified in Schedule A remains in effect for a period of 2 years on and from the date of this instrument.

Dated 18 September 2026

EDOC 09-D26-79039

Chief Health Officer

Schedule A

Title	Publication Date	Author
Diphtheria Management in Primary Care Scheduled Substance Treatment Protocol (SSTP)	18/09/2026	Population and Primary Healthcare, Northern Territory Government, Department of Health

Diphtheria Management in Primary Care SSTP

Areas Applicable	NT Wide
Health Professionals authorised by this SSTP	Nurses Midwives Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners
Scheduled Substance(s)	Azithromycin tablets and oral suspension Amoxicillin tablets/capsules/oral suspension Doxycycline tablets/capsules
Indication	For the treatment of suspected and confirmed cases of cutaneous and respiratory diphtheria in the community. For dosing of chemoprophylaxis in high-risk and other identified contacts of diphtheria.
Contraindications, and/or Exclusions (including relevant drug interactions)*	Known hypersensitivity to any of the listed antibiotic options will exclude that antibiotic from choice of use. Contraindications and/or exclusions as per the Appendix C of the Clinical Management of Diphtheria in Primary Care in the Northern Territory Guideline as published by NT Health. For further information, see the relevant Product Information.
Dose and Route*	All doses are to be given by the ORAL route Dose as per Appendix C of the Clinical Management of Diphtheria in Primary Care in the Northern Territory Guideline as published by NT Health
Dose Frequency*	As per the Appendix C of the Clinical Management of Diphtheria in Primary Care in the Northern Territory Guideline as published by NT Health
Monitoring requirements	Patients should be advised to seek medical attention if they experience an adverse event following drug administration. For additional diphtheria related monitoring requirements, please refer to the Clinical Management of Diphtheria in Primary Care in the Northern Territory Guideline as published by NT Health.
Health Professional Accreditation Requirements	Health professionals using this guideline must meet the requirements outlined by the NT Chief Health Officer: Nurses and Midwives: - Be registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia with no conditions, undertakings or notations which may limit delivery of clinical services directly to patients Aboriginal Health Practitioners: - Be registered with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

	Practice Board of Australia with no conditions or undertakings which may limit delivery of clinical services directly to patients		
	All health professionals following this protocol must: • Have completed all essential training as mandated by workplace employer • Maintain continuing professional development related to skills and competencies required for the delivery of medicines • Hold a current Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certificate		
Documentation <i>(including necessary information to the patient)</i>	The health professional must: • Complete all clinical documentation requirements as outlined by the Health Service. • Complete all required notifications as per the Clinical Management of Diphtheria in Primary Care in the Northern Territory Guideline as published by NT Health		
Related Documents	Clinical Management of Diphtheria in Primary Care in the Northern Territory Guideline as published by NT Health NT CDC cutaneous diphtheria contact management matrix NT CDC respiratory diphtheria contact management matrix		
Chief Health Officer	Signature	Name	Date
	EDOC 09-D26-79044	Adj Prof Paul Burgess	18/09/2026
Period of effect	This SSTP is in effect until 18/09/2028 unless revoked earlier		
References: * The drug information provided is to act as a guide to outline the limits of legal dealing with the named scheduled substances. Further information reference should be made to the full manufacturer’s product info and other reliable sources of medicines information. If contraindications or interactions are present refer to medical officer before administration			