



# TOXIC SHOCK SYNDROME

(Previously listed as staphylococcal toxic shock syndrome. See also **STAPHYLOCOCCAL INFECTIONS**, **STREPTOCOCCAL INFECTIONS**, and **EXANTHEMS – DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS** in Appendix A)

1. **Agent:** Toxic shock syndrome toxin-1 (TSST-1), which is produced by same strains of *Staphylococcus aureus*.

mailed to the diagnosing physician by ACDC staff.

2. **Identification:**

## CONTROL OF CASE, CONTACTS & CARRIERS

a. **Symptoms:** Toxic shock syndrome is a severe illness characterized by sudden onset of high fever, myalgia, weakness, vomiting, diarrhea, hypotension, diffuse macular erythroderma, and multi-organ system dysfunction. Staphylococcal TSS is often associated with menstruation and tampon use in females and production of TSS-related toxins. Non-menstrual TSS cases have been associated with surgical wound infections, use of diaphragms or contraceptive sponges, and focal staphylococcal infections.

Standard isolation precautions of hospitalized patient is recommended; no additional control measures are required.

## PREVENTION-EDUCATION

Warn against continuous use of tampons during menstruation. Women who have had a previous episode of TSS should not use tampons.

b. **Differential Diagnosis:** Kawasaki disease, scarlet fever, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, measles, leptospirosis, and other febrile mucocutaneous diseases.

## DIAGNOSTIC PROCEDURES

The diagnosis of toxic shock syndrome is based on clinical findings supported by abnormal hematologic, renal, and hepatic function tests.

c. **Diagnosis:** The CDC case definition includes the following 5 criteria:

- Fever of 38.9° C (102° F) or higher.
- Presence of a diffuse macular erythroderma (a sunburn-like rash).
- Desquamation of skin 1 to 2 weeks after onset of illness.
- Hypotension (systolic blood pressure < 90 mm Hg for adults).
- Involvement of 3 or more of the following organ systems: gastrointestinal, muscular, mucous membrane, renal, hepatic, hematologic, and central nervous system.

## REPORTING PROCEDURES

1. **Reportable.** (Section 2500, California Code of Regulations.)

2. **Report Forms:** **TOXIC SHOCK SYNDROME CASE REPORT (CDPH 8599)** will be