

Group A Streptococcus (GAS) spreads through respiratory droplets and skin contact. It causes common illnesses like strep throat and impetigo, in severe case necrotizing fasciitis and toxic shock syndrome.

Invasive GAS (IGAS) occurs when the bacteria proliferate in a normally sterile body site, such as the blood, soft tissues or joints.

Streptococcal toxic shock syndrome (STSS) can be a severe complication of IGAS, caused by toxins that are produced by GAS, which act on host cells or tissues.

Information for the public

[Factsheet - What is Group A Strep | HSC Public Health Agency](#)

[Group A Streptococcus - GOV.UK](#)

[IGAS Factsheet_01_23 final.pdf](#)

[Group A Streptococcus in children \(including scarlet fever and invasive Group A Streptococcus\)](#)

[Scarlet fever | HSC Public Health Agency](#)

[Scarlet fever | nidirect](#)

[Scarlet fever: symptoms, diagnosis and treatment - GOV.UK](#)

[Parents and carers asked to be aware of the symptoms of scarlet fever Agency](#)

Guidance for healthcare professionals

Guidelines on antimicrobial prescribing for acute sore throat are set out in the [National Institute for Health and Care Excellence \(NICE\) guidance \[NG84\]: Sore throat \(acute\): antimicrobial prescribing](#).

[Group A Streptococcus \(GAS\) – NI Infection Control Manual](#)

Treatment

Scarlet fever and strep throat are treated with a course of antibiotics.

Data and surveillance

[Scarlet fever and IGAS monthly update | HSC Public Health Agency](#)

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