

Title: Lyme Disease & Ticks in PA

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Chat Questions & Answers

Q: If an employee gets a tick bite and you have prescription medicine prescribed only as a preventative measure will this still need recorded on your OSHA log?

A: Even though no illness was diagnosed, this case would have to be recorded on the OSHA 300 Log due to the prescription medication. This specific scenario was addressed in an OSHA Letter of Interpretation dated 10/20/14 (linked below). The letter describes the following scenario and their response:

“Scenario: In your letter, you state that an employee was bitten by a deer tick in the work environment. The employee does not contract Lyme disease or any other illness as a result of the bite, does not exhibit any signs of illness, and does not miss any time at work. In an abundance of caution, a physician prescribes antibiotics as a prophylactic measure. You also state that doctors in certain areas of the United States have a greater tendency to prescribe antibiotics to guard against Lyme disease associated with deer tick bites, whereas doctors in most areas of the country do not routinely prescribe antibiotics as a preventative measure.”

“OSHA Response: The issuance of prescription antibiotics is considered medical treatment beyond first aid for OSHA injury and illness recordkeeping purposes. The scenario described above is a work-related injury involving medical treatment and must be entered on the OSHA Form 300. The Agency believes that the use of prescription medications is not first aid because prescription medications are powerful substances that can only be prescribed by a licensed health care professional...”

[Prescription medications, including preventive antibiotics, are considered medical treatment and are recordable. | Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(osha.gov\)](#)