

Chlamydia Screening Key Information for Practitioners

According to the CDC, Chlamydia is the most commonly reported sexually transmitted disease in the United States. In fact, Chlamydia infects about 2.8 million people, mostly between 15 and 24 years old, in the U.S. annually. However, due to a large asymptomatic population, only 50% of chlamydia cases are reported. If left untreated, chlamydia can lead to serious complications. About 15% of untreated cases will become pelvic inflammatory disease, which can also lead to infertility and ectopic pregnancy. The annual treatment of chlamydia infections and subsequent complications costs the U.S. an average of \$2 billion.

Who to screen

Annual screening is recommended by the ACOG, US Preventive Task Force, CDC and by the Gateway Health preventive guideline for all females ages 16-24 (as of December 31 of the measurement year) who are presumed to be sexually active by:

- Pharmacy data showing prescription contraceptive dispensation
- History of a STD
- Pregnancy testing
- Other claims data that indicates potential sexual activity

How to Screen

There are two ways to test for Chlamydia:

- Urine test that provides an easy way to get accurate results
- Culture/infectious agent antigen detection swab from vagina or endocervix

Submitting a claim

Use one of the following ICD-9 Codes

- V69.2 - high risk sexual behavior
- V73.88 – Special screening for other specified chlamydial diseases
- V73.98 - screening for unspecified Chlamydia disease

Use one of the following CPT codes: 87110, 87270, 87320, 87490, 87491, 87492 or 87810

Expected Outcomes

Early detection of Chlamydia may lessen the risk of serious complications from the disease. Detection is the first step to treating the infected patients and their sexual partners. Also, treating pregnant women will typically prevent mothers from passing the disease to their babies. Chlamydia screening helps to improve the quality of care and address preventive measures at every visit.

Additional Reading

CDC - <http://www.cdc.gov/std/chlamydia/stdfact-chlamydia-detailed.htm>

USPTF - <http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Topic/recommendation-summary/chlamydia-and-gonorrhea-screening?ds=1&s=>