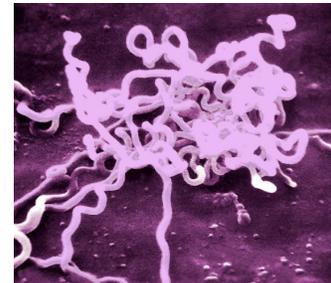


### Taking a Sexual History

20 million new sexually transmitted infections (STIs) occur every year. Given these statistics, it is certain your facility encounters patients who have STIs. How comfortable do you feel talking about sexual health? The CDC "[Guide to Taking a Sexual History](#)" offers tips on starting a conversation with patients about STIs utilizing the "Five Ps": 1) Partners; 2) Pregnancy prevention; 3) Protection from STIs; 4) Practices and 5) Past history of STDs. Taking a sexual history allows the provider an opportunity to identify individuals at risk, screen appropriate anatomical sites, and give appropriate risk reduction counseling to prevent future exposure to STDs/HIV. Would a form help your facility make taking a sexual history a standard practice? A sample form can be found at [California Department of Health](#).

### STI Quiz...test your knowledge!

- The overall incidence of STIs is:**
  - Rising
  - Falling
  - About the same as it always has been
- What problem has recently occurred with the treatment of Gonorrhea?**
  - Necessary antibiotics for treatment are in short supply
  - The gonorrhea bacteria has developed resistance to some antibiotics
  - People have developed allergic reactions to antibiotics
  - All of the above
- What major organ(s) can be affected by untreated syphilis?**
  - Heart
  - Brain
  - Liver
  - A and B
- Which is the most commonly transmitted STI?**
  - Genital Herpes
  - Chlamydia
  - Genital Human Papilloma Virus



ANSWERS ON NEXT PAGE



### Upcoming Training

**STD Update presented by The Seattle STD/HIV Prevention Training Center**

October 16-17, 8:30– 5:00, Portland, OR

For information (206) 685-9850 online registration: [www.seattlesthdhivptc.org](http://www.seattlesthdhivptc.org)

**Optional Clinical 2 Day Clinical Practicum, Multnomah County STD Clinic**

Dates between October –December available

For information (206) 685-9850 online registration: [www.seattlesthdhivptc.org](http://www.seattlesthdhivptc.org)

## STI Quiz...ANSWERS And DISCUSSION

### 1. The overall incidence of STIs is:

**A. Rising**

Although the number of some STIs has fallen significantly, the overall incidence of STIs is rising. The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease states this seems to be occurring because people have become sexually active at an earlier age, yet are marrying later. Also, divorce is more common. These factors mean sexually active people are likely to have more than one partner during their lifetime. Having multiple partners is a major STI risk factor.

### 2. What problem has recently occurred with the treatment of gonorrhea?

**B. The gonorrhea bacteria has developed resistant to some antibiotics.**

Because of this, the CDC recommends only one class of antibiotics to treat gonorrhea– the cephalosporins. The most common symptoms of gonorrhea is discharge from the penis or vagina with painful or difficult urination.

### 3. What major organ(s) can be affected by untreated syphilis?

**D. A and B (Heart and Brain)**

Although the initial symptoms of syphilis are mild, if untreated, syphilis can be fatal. The first symptom is a painless sore called a chancre that appears on or near genitalia, the anus, mouth or hands. Advanced syphilis, which take years to develop, can involve the heart and central nervous system. Syphilis is easily treated and cured with penicillin injections.

**Syphilis in Oregon is increasing. The number of cases in 2011 was 8 times higher than in 2007. Most cases of syphilis are diagnosed in the Portland metro area. The group most impacted are men who have sex with men. For more information on syphilis cases in Oregon click [here](#). To read a recent CD Summary on syphilis in Oregon click [here](#).**

### 4. Which is the most commonly transmitted STI?

**C. Genital Human papillomavirus**

Genital human papillomavirus (also called HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted infection (STI). There are more than 40 types of HPV that can infect the genital areas of male and females. These HPV types can also infect the mouth and throat. HPV can cause serious health problems, including genital warts and certain cancers. For more information on HPV click [here](#).

## STI Resources

CDC [“Sexually Transmitted Diseases Treatment Guidelines, 2010”](#);

CDC [STD online training, picture cards, webinars](#)

[Oregon Disease Reporting Guidelines](#) for healthcare providers

Oregon-specific [STI Facts Sheets](#), including the [Intersection Between HIV and STD's in Oregon](#).

## Providing STI Screening for Men who have Sex with Men (MSM)

On the previous page we provided some resources for taking a sexual history. Per one survey, it was found that only 27% of primary care providers ask patients about their sexual orientation. Because CDC recommendations for STI screening is different for MSM, knowing the patient's sexual orientation is critical to good care.

CDC advises sexually active MSM should be screened annually for chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis and HIV. MSM who use illicit drugs and/or have multiple sex partners are at highest risk for STIs and should be tested every 3-6 months. In addition to urine based tests for chlamydia and gonorrhea, studies reinforce the importance of rectal and pharyngeal testing for gonorrhea and rectal screening for chlamydia for those MSM who report risk behaviors. Infections in these sites are frequently asymptomatic and if left untreated may be a contributing factor to HIV acquisition. Click [here](#) for CDC guidelines.

## Questions??? Contact Us

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