

MAKING CHLAMYDIA SCREENING ROUTINE FOR OUR FEMALE PATIENTS

The US Preventive Task Force recommends that all sexually active women age 25 and younger receive routine screening for Chlamydia. A 2019 US Family Health Plan quality goal aims to significantly improve Chlamydia screening rates among our young, female members. Making Chlamydia screening a routine step in patient care can help these patients avoid reproductive-health issues.

An estimated 2.86 million Chlamydia infections occur annually among sexually active adolescents and young adults in the United States.¹ The majority of the women who have the condition do not experience symptoms. The main objective of Chlamydia screening is to prevent pelvic inflammatory disease, infertility and ectopic pregnancy, all of which have high rates of occurrence among women with untreated Chlamydia infections.^{2,3}

In February, USFHP provided our partner medical groups with a list of their patients within the target

population who may be considered at risk, based on claims data. Some practices have found that the most effective way to keep up with delivering this needed care is to routinely do a Chlamydia screen whenever a Pap smear is done for women in this age range.

We encourage our partners to support our goal for improved Chlamydia screening rates and reach out to potentially at-risk patients.

1 Satterwhite CL et al, Sexually transmitted infections among US women and men: prevalence and incidence estimates, 2008. *STD* 2013 Mar;40(30):187-93

2 Cates W, Jr., Wasserheit JN. Genital chlamydial infections: epidemiology and reproductive sequelae. *American journal of obstetrics and gynecology* 1991;164:1771-81.

3 Westrom L, Joesoef R, Reynolds G, Hagdu A, Thompson SE. Pelvic inflammatory disease and fertility. A cohort study of 1,844 women with laparoscopically verified disease and 657 control women with normal laparoscopic results. *Sexually transmitted diseases* 1992;19:185-92.