



The Center for Women

Obstetrics & Gynecology

Know. Because it affects more than you know.

To all of our female patients here for physical exams or Pap tests:

Chlamydia and **gonorrhea** are bacterial infections that are spread through sexual contact. These infections are common, particularly among young sexually active people. Did you know that nearly **3.6 million** new chlamydia and gonorrhea infections occur each year, half of which affect young people (ages 15-24).¹ Although symptoms in women may include pelvic pain or vaginal discharge, it is common to have an infection and not know it. In fact, very often there are no signs or symptoms in women or their partners. It is important to detect chlamydia and gonorrhea because untreated infections may persist, spreading further and causing irreversible damage to the genital tract, and may cause pain and complications with pregnancy.^{2,3} These infections can be detected with a simple, painless test taken from a urine, Pap or swab sample and can be cured with prescription antibiotics.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) screening guidelines for chlamydia and gonorrhea are as follows:⁴

- **Sexually active women under age 25 (annual screening).**
- **Women age 25 and older at increased risk[†]**
- **Women with symptoms of cervicitis.**
- **All pregnant women should be tested during their first trimesters. Those who are under age 25, found to be infected in the first trimester or older women at increased risk should be tested again during the third trimester.**
- **Women and men who test positive should be retested at 3 months.**

Based on how common these infections are, it is part of our universal screening strategy to automatically perform these screening tests for all patients as recommended by CDC guidelines. If you have any questions, please ask your healthcare provider.

In many cases, screening for chlamydia and gonorrhea is a covered benefit under the Affordable Care Act. This means no co-pay, no deductible, no out-of-pocket cost to you.*

If you test positive — You are not alone. Every year millions of people find out that they have an infection. The good news is that we have identified the infection and can take steps to treat it, potentially avoiding complications. Having chlamydia or gonorrhea does not necessarily mean that you or your partner are engaging in sex outside of your relationship. It is possible to have an infection without any signs or symptoms. Regular testing, along with advances in the technology used for testing, has made it possible to get more accurate results. If you test positive, it is important to discuss your test results with your partner as they may need to seek treatment as well. It is also just as important to be re-tested in three months because re-infection is common, even after treatment.

If you test negative — Good news! We will see you back next year. Remember, it is important to schedule a well-woman exam once a year. The well-woman exam is more than a Pap test; it's an opportunity for your healthcare provider to examine your overall health. Your healthcare provider will determine which tests are right for you.

Thank you.

Brought to you by Hologic, a leader in women's health.

* Coverage may not be available to all patients, please consult your health plan for coverage.

† People with increased risk are women who have new or multiple partners, have a history of STDs, exchange sex for payment and use injection drugs, those with a new sex partner, more than one sex partner, a sex partner with concurrent partners, or a sex partner who has a sexually transmitted infection.

References: 1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Incidence, Prevalence, and Cost of Sexually Transmitted Infections in the United States. <http://www.cdc.gov/std/stats/sti-estimates-fact-sheet-feb-2013.pdf>. Published February 13, 2013. Accessed February 2, 2017. 2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Chlamydia - CDC Fact Sheet. <http://www.cdc.gov/std/chlamydia/stdfact-chlamydia.htm>. Updated December 16, 2014. Accessed February 2, 2017. 3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Gonorrhea - CDC Fact Sheet. <http://www.cdc.gov/std/gonorrhea/stdfact-gonorrhea.htm>. Updated December 16, 2014. Accessed February 2, 2017. 4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Sexually Transmitted Diseases Treatment Guidelines, 2015. <http://www.cdc.gov/std/tg2015/tg-2015-print.pdf>. Published June 5, 2015. Accessed February 2, 2017.