Clinician Summary of USPSTF Recommendation

Screening for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea

September 2021



What does the USPSTF recommend?

For sexually active women, including pregnant persons:



Screen for chlamydia if they are:

- 24 years or younger
- 25 years or older and at increased risk for infection



Screen for gonorrhea if they are:

- 24 years or younger
- 25 years or older and at increased risk for infection.

See below how to implement this recommendation.



For sexually active men:

The USPSTF found that the evidence is insufficient to assess the balance of benefits and harms of screening for chlamydia and gonorrhea in men. More research is needed.



To whom does this recommendation apply?

Sexually active adolescents and adults, including pregnant persons, without signs and symptoms of chlamydia or gonorrhea infection.



What's new?

This recommendation is consistent with the 2014 USPSTF recommendation.



How to implement this recommendation?

1. Assess Risk.

- Women aged 15 to 24 years have the highest infection rates.
- Women 25 years or older are at increased risk if they have:
 - o A previous or coexisting STI
 - o A new or more than 1 sex partner
 - o A sex partner having sex with other partners at the same time
 - o A sex partner with an STI
 - o Inconsistent condom use when not in a mutually monogamous relationship
 - o A history of exchanging sex for money or drugs
 - o A history of incarceration



Clinicians should consider the communities they serve and may want to consult local public health authorities for information about local epidemiology and guidance on determining who is at increased risk.

2. Screen for chlamydia and gonorrhea in sexually active women:

- 24 years or younger
- 25 years or older and at increased risk for infection

Screen for chlamydia and gonorrhea using a NAAT. NAATs can test for infection at urogenital and extragenital sites, including urine, endocervical, vaginal, male urethral, rectal, and pharynx. Both chlamydia and gonorrhea can be tested at the same time with the same specimen.



What are other relevant USPSTF recommendations?

The USPSTF has issued recommendations on screening for other STIs, including:

- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis C
- Genital herpes
- HIV
- Syphilis
- Behavioral counseling for all sexually active adolescents and for adults who are at increased risk for STIs



Where to read the full recommendation statement?

Visit the USPSTF website to read the full recommendation statement. This includes more details on the rationale of the recommendation, including benefits and harms; supporting evidence; and recommendations of others.

