

Screening for Sexually Transmitted Infections

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are infections from diseases that spread from one person to another through sexual contact.

The main goal of screening for STIs is to find and treat the infection. Untreated STIs can cause long-term health problems. Most people that have STIs do not have symptoms. Testing is the only way to know for sure if a person has an infection.

*If you have
any questions,
please ask
your physician.*

What to test for

STI screening tests look for these diseases:

- Chlamydia
- Gonorrhea
- Trichomonas
- Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)
- Syphilis
- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis C
- Human papilloma virus (HPV)

Whom to test

People who need STI screening include:

- All pregnant persons
- Anyone who is sexually active, especially those who have high-risk activities. This includes:
 - Unprotected sex
 - Sexual contact with multiple partners
- Anyone who has symptoms of an STI. For females, this includes:
 - Abnormal vaginal discharge or odor
 - Vaginal itching or irritation
 - Vaginal rash or sores

When to test

We screen for STIs as follows:

- During the 1st and 3rd trimesters of pregnancy (untreated STIs can harm a baby)
- At least once a year for females under the age of 25
- At any point for people who have symptoms or may have been exposed to an STI

How to test

- You will need a urine test and/or vaginal swab to test for gonorrhea, chlamydia and trichomonas.
- You will need a blood test to test for HIV, syphilis, hepatitis B and hepatitis C.

Treatment for STIs

- We use antibiotics to treat gonorrhea, chlamydia, trichomonas and syphilis
- We use anti-viral medications to treat HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C

Other infections

If you have any concerns about an infection that is not included in the routine screening, such as herpes or genital warts, please talk with a member of your care team during your appointment.