

Chlamydia Screening Guidelines MA, RI

Women 25 years of age and under:

Screen **all** sexually active women age 25 and under for chlamydia, every year.

Women 26 years of age and over:

Screen women 26 years of age and over for chlamydia **IF**:

- the woman has new or multiple sex partners since last tested, **AND/OR**
- she has a history of any sexually transmitted infection in the last 12 months.

Pregnant Women:

Screen for chlamydia at the first prenatal visit.

After treatment for chlamydia:

Re-screen 3-4 months after treatment, due to the high incidence of re-infection.

Chlamydia is the leading preventable cause of infertility in the U.S.

*Sexually active young women are at highest risk for chlamydial infection.**



* Young women ages 15-24 have a chlamydia rate of 32.1 cases per 1000, as compared to 2.1 per 1000 in women ages 25+, and 2.7 per 1000 in men of all ages. (CDC 2008)

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Answers to Patients' FAQs about Chlamydia Screening

What is chlamydia?

- Chlamydia is the most commonly reported sexually transmitted infection in the U.S.
- It is very common among young women. 15- to 24-year-old females represent over 80% of chlamydia infections.
- To reduce your risk for chlamydia and other STIs, use a condom every time you have sex.

Why is chlamydia screening recommended for young women?

- Up to 70% of women have NO symptoms, so a screening test is the only way to know for sure if you have it.
- Untreated chlamydia can cause serious health problems including pelvic inflammatory disease, chronic pelvic pain, ectopic pregnancy, and infertility.
- Chlamydia infection facilitates transmission of HIV.

What happens if the screening test shows that I have chlamydia?

- Chlamydia is easily cured with a full course of antibiotics.
- To prevent re-infection, your sex partner(s) must also be treated.
- Don't have sex for 7 days after taking your antibiotics.



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