

Sexual Health: Chlamydia Screening

Provider Tip Sheet

Chlamydia Screening in Women (CHL) Measure Indicator

HEDIS® MY 2023 Volume 2 Technical Specifications

Eligibility

1. Women 16-24 years as of December 31st of the measurement year (MY).
2. Members who had a claim or encounter indicating sexual activity during the measurement year (MY). This includes members who were prescribed contraceptives.

Screening

The percentage of women 16- 24 years of age who were identified as sexually active and who had at least one test for chlamydia during the measurement year.

Annual Physical Exam: The best time to conduct screenings is at yearly physicals. It is recommended that chlamydia be included with the series of routine labs that are ordered during the annual physical visit. Providers should order an annual chlamydia screening for female patients between the ages of 15 (who turn age 16 by December 31 of the measurement year) and 24 who are present in the office for any of the following reasons:

- Any time a urine screening is performed
- Pregnancy testing
- Contraception services
- Prior history of sexually transmitted infections
- Annual well visit
- Prior history of sexual abuse or assault
- Don't always use a condom

CPT Codes: 87110 (Urinalysis Screening), 87270, 87320, 87490, 87491, 87492, 87810

Best Practice Tips

- Send out different types of reminders for appointments (e.g.: mail, email, birthday text, and calls).
- Submit accurate claims/encounter data for each service rendered in a timely manner
- Utilize HEDIS Resource [website](#).
- Develop a policy which describes how chlamydia will be addressed by all employees at the practice. Consider selecting a CHL Testing Champion who will help implement the process to meet practice quality standards.

Talking Points

Be prepared to explain the rationale for the testing. Providers should provide STI prevention counseling and make a note in the chart to routinely test for chlamydia and other sexually transmitted infection.

“I am going to ask you a few questions about sexual health. I ask everyone these questions, as they are important to understand your health. Everything you tell me is confidential. Will that be okay?”

“I would like to order some routine screenings for you. Based on what you have shared today, I would like to include a routine screening for Chlamydia/(STIs). Would that be okay with you?”

“As part of our annual screenings, we would like to test your urine/swab/vagina for Chlamydia/STIs. Because Chlamydia is very common and many people don’t even have symptoms, we like to screen at least once a year. Will that be okay?”

“At this point in the visit I generally ask some questions about sexual health and discuss screenings for sexually transmitted diseases like Chlamydia. Will that be okay?”

“You can call the office at any time. We will schedule an appointment to talk to you about sexual health and screenings.”

- Make your patient feel comfortable and establish rapport before asking sensitive questions.
- Rephrase your questions or briefly explain why you are asking if a patient seems reluctant to answer.
- Ensure that you and your patient share an understanding of the terms being used to avoid confusion. If you are not familiar with a term your patient uses, ask for an explanation.
- Use standardized, easy-to-understand language to ask sexual history questions and ask those questions in the same way each time. Consider adding sexual history assessment questions to ensure consistent phrasing.
- Inform patient that conversations about sexual health can be difficult but are an important part of routine care.
- Assess your own comfort discussing sex with various patient groups and identify any biases that you may have. If you are uncomfortable talking about sex and sexuality, your patient will be too.
- Avoid making assumptions about your patient based on age, appearance, marital status, or any other factor. Unless you ask, you cannot know a person’s sexual orientation, behaviors, or gender identity.

References

- [NY Preventive Care Booklet \(slide 10\)](#)
- [USPSTF-U.S Preventive Services Task Force](#)
- [CDC Sexually Transmitted Disease Screening Recommendations](#)
- [Talking Chlamydia- Advice for Clinicians](#)
- [Normalizing Chlamydia Screening- How to Talk to Patient](#)