

IHS-Recommended Guidelines for Syphilis Testing, Treatment, and Prevention

- 1. Offer annual syphilis testing** for persons aged 13 and older to eliminate syphilis transmission by early case recognition.
- 2. Prescribe and administer Penicillin G Benzathine for every age and every stage** of syphilis infection in the absence of contraindications to therapy.
 - The IHS National Supply Service Center (NSSC) and IHS Pharmaceutical Prime Vendor Program continue to monitor Bicillin availability.
 - Lentocilin, a clinically appropriate FDA-authorized product that is interchangeable with Bicillin for the treatment of syphilis and congenital syphilis, remains readily available.
 - For questions about how to order this medication, please directly contact Mr. Weston Thompson, NSSC, by email at weston.thompson@ihs.gov.
- 3. Turn on the annual Electronic Health Record reminder** if available to facilitate testing until incidence rates decrease locally to baseline.
- 4. Provide three (3)-point syphilis testing for all pregnant women--** at the patient's first prenatal visit; at the beginning of the patient's third trimester; and at delivery.
- 5. Adoption of an HIV/Viral Hepatitis/STI testing bundle** (plus pregnancy test, when appropriate) at all sites to screen broadly:
 - Perform syphilis screening test with reflex rapid plasma reagin and treponema pallidum particle agglutination;
 - Provide HIV serology (with documentation of consent, if required in your local/state jurisdiction);
 - Screen for gonorrhea and chlamydia at three sites – (urine, pharynx, and rectum);

- Screen for both hepatitis B and hepatitis C; and
- Provide pregnancy testing (when appropriate).

6. Adopt and provide [Express STI testing](#) services at all sites.

- Provide universal screening and treatment for syphilis in Urgent Care and Emergency Department settings, as many individuals utilize Urgent Care and Emergency Departments as their primary access to care.

7. Provide field testing **outside hospitals and clinics to increase screening rates.**

- Utilize **point-of-care, rapid syphilis, or dual HIV/syphilis antibody tests**.
- For information on how to obtain **FREE** point-of-care, rapid HIV, HCV, syphilis, or dual HIV/syphilis tests, please directly contact Mr. Andrew Yu, HIV/HCV/STI Branch, by email at andrew.yu@ihs.gov.

8. Consider utilizing **patient incentives to enhance HIV/HCV/STI testing efforts.**

- For information on how to obtain **FREE** patient incentives in the form of \$10 gift cards, please contact Mr. Yu by email at andrew.yu@ihs.gov.

9. Provide [field treatment for syphilis](#) whenever necessary for adults diagnosed with syphilis and their partners, including non-beneficiaries.

- Note: When field testing, **provide immediate treatment** following a reactive syphilis antibody result if there is uncertainty that the individual may not follow-up appropriately.

10. Provide **presumptive treatment of syphilis for anyone having signs or symptoms of syphilis, or with anyone known to have been exposed to syphilis.**

- Provide **testing and treatment with Penicillin G Benzathine** for all contacts and partners, including non-beneficiaries.

11. Offer and provide [DoxyPEP](#) to appropriate populations indicated in [IHS guidelines](#) to prevent bacterial STIs, including syphilis.