



2015

Clinical quality corner

One in a series of tip sheets focusing on key Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set measures

Chlamydia screening in women

This measure looks at the percentage of women ages 16 to 24 years old who were identified as being sexually active and who have had at least one test for chlamydia during the measurement year.

Improving HEDIS® scores

- **Take** a sexual history of all adolescents and remember that many adolescents will speak more freely without a parent in the room.
- **Adopt** a no-missed-opportunity philosophy by using any visit to screen female patients who are sexually active.
- **Screen** for chlamydia annually.
- **Educate** young women that infection is most often asymptomatic and that infertility, ectopic pregnancy and passing infection to their baby during pregnancy are among the risks of untreated chlamydia.

Tip:

When taking a sexual history:

- Set expectations for the visit, including private time with the teen.
- Reinforce confidentiality with the teen within state limits.
- Avoid making assumptions or being judgmental.

Did you know?

- Estimates show that undiagnosed sexually transmitted diseases cause infertility in 24,000 women each year.
- According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, just over two-thirds of chlamydia cases reported in 2012 occurred in the 15- to 24-year-old age group.
- There is biologic evidence that untreated STDs increase the likelihood of both transmitting and acquiring HIV.