

**Syphilis is** a bacterial STI common in the Kimberley

## Syphilis is transmitted

**Sexually** (through unprotected vaginal, anal or oral sex)

**Mother to baby** (congenital syphilis)

## Syphilis often has No Symptoms

Common symptoms may include:

- Ulcer (chancre, sore)
- Rash
- Swollen lymph glands
- Patchy hair loss
- Muscle and joint aches

## ALERT: Congenital Syphilis

Can result in severe disease and death of the unborn baby and infant

**PREVENTION OF CONGENITAL SYPHILIS IS OF THE HIGHEST PRIORITY**

**Treatment during pregnancy is very effective**



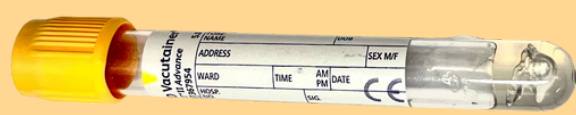
## What Can We Do About Syphilis?

**TALK** Yarn often about sexual health - discuss using condoms and encourage regular STI check ups

**Screening for syphilis is essential as most people will not have symptoms**

### Test

On a blood test using a yellow top tube.



Also do a PCR swab of genital ulcer if present



### symptoms

Kimberley Syphilis Screening Guidelines

15 - 34 yo	35-39 yo	Pregnancy
At least every 6 months	At least every 12 months	At least 5 times (1st appointment, 28 weeks, 36 weeks, at birth and 6 weeks post natal)

**Test more frequently if concerned**

Syphilis is treated with **Long Acting Bicillin (LAB)**.

Treatment depends on how long the person has been infected - KPHU will provide advice

## TREAT

**Treat on the day if:**

- Symptoms are present
- Named contact of syphilis

**DO NOT  
WAIT FOR  
RESULTS**

### Additional Tests

- **Pregnancy test** must be done for all women of child bearing age
- Always repeat **syphilis serology on day of treatment**
- Repeat serology at **3, 6 and 12** months post treatment
- Test for **other STIs & BBVs**

## TRACE

**Contact tracing is important and should be started immediately**