



Protocol Review Evidence used and rationale

Protocol name: Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Screening Guidelines

Rationale: The Kimberley has the highest rates of Chlamydia, gonorrhoea and syphilis in the State. STIs are common in the 15-34 year age group and are often asymptomatic. Asymptomatic testing and prompt treatment of infection is important to control STIs and prevent long-term consequences of untreated infection such as pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) in women, infertility, miscarriage, stillbirth and complications for newborn babies including death.

This protocol outlines the Kimberley target groups for STI screening, the tests required as part of screening and when screening is required for each of the target groups. The management and follow up of asymptomatic and symptomatic clients is discussed and the management of named contacts of positive cases of syphilis, gonorrhoea and Chlamydia.

Working Group: Sexual Health Subcommittee 2018

Review / Input from: Sarah Sihlen, Natasha Ghandour and Janice Forrester

Discussion Points

Case definition

This protocol provides a brief description of what constitutes a STI and a BBV.

List of abbreviations and terms

The most commonly used abbreviations and terms are provided as part of this protocol to ensure the reader clearly understands the terms and abbreviations used in this protocol.

Screening

The age group for asymptomatic screening was revised from 15-29 years to 15-34 years. The inclusion of 30 – 34 year olds is based on a recommendation from the Multi-Jurisdictional Syphilis Outbreak Group (MJSO) in February 2021, which noted an increase in the age of people with primary syphilis across the syphilis outbreak jurisdictions.

The time points for STI screening in pregnancy are outlined in this protocol. Syphilis screening in pregnancy includes at birth and six weeks postpartum. This is in line with syphilis screening in pregnancy in outbreak regions recommended by the MJSO.

The conditions for using point of care testing (PoCT) are included in this protocol.

Resources and References

[Multijurisdictional Syphilis Outbreak Surveillance Report](#): February 2021

[Silverbook](#)

Quick guide for [opportunistic STI testing](#)

Quick guide for [STI management](#)

Kimberley [asymptomatic STI testing guidelines](#)

Kimberley [PID protocol](#)

Kimberley [STI lesion testing](#)

Kimberley [contact tracing protocol](#)

[Kimberley Congenital Syphilis Guidelines](#)

[Delivering a positive HIV result in the Kimberley](#)