PAPER CLIP—CHLAMYDIA SCREENING

Description: Chlamydia is an infection caused by bacteria that is passed during sexual contact. People with Chlamydia often don’t have any outward symptoms. This is the most common sexually transmitted bacterial infection in the United States. Chlamydia can affect the penis, vagina, cervix, anus, urethra, eye or throat.

Possible Cause: Both males and females can have chlamydia without any symptoms. Because of this, it is easy to become infected or pass the infection on if you have unprotected sex. Risks are increased when:
- Sex occurs without wearing a male or female condom
- Having more than one sexual partner
- Using drugs or alcohol prior to having sex

Diagnostic Tests:
- Culture collected during a pelvic exam or from the tip of the penis or rectum
- Urine test

Conversation with Member:
- General opening such as: “How are you feeling today? I would like to discuss a rather sensitive subject that is very important—are you willing to discuss Chlamydia screenings and the risks of contacting Chlamydia?”
- Offer information: “I have some information to share with you regarding the importance of getting screened for Chlamydia at least once a year or when you have a new sexual partner.”
- Get more specific: It is recommended that you get screened to avoid future problems. For females, these problems could lead to pelvic inflammatory disease and/or damage your reproductive organs. For males, these problems could lead to urethritis (a swelling of the urethra), an inflammation of the rectum or infection of the epididymis (tube on top of the testis).
  - Symptoms of Chlamydia include:
    - Burning feeling during urination
    - Discharge from the penis or vagina
    - Pain in the lower abdomen
    - Painful sexual intercourse in women
    - Pain in the testicles in men
- Lifestyle impacts & Medical Tx options: Should you have Chlamydia, your Provider will treat both you and your partner with an oral antibiotic. The infection should clear up in one to two weeks, so be sure to take all of the medication. After being treated, your provider may wish to retest you and your partner. Retesting for Chlamydia will confirm that the infection is cured and re-infection won’t occur for you and your partner.
- Review the member’s plan of action: “Based on this information, can we make a plan for you to work with your providers to schedule a Chlamydia screening?”
- National Standard: Priority Gap for HEDIS & Stars

References: HealthLine - Chlamydia
Medline Plus

© 2015 Medica. Medica® is a registered service mark of Medica Health Plans. “Medica” refers to the family of health plan businesses that includes Medica Health Plans, Medica Health Plans of Wisconsin, Medica Insurance Company, Medica Self-Insured, and Medica Health Management, LLC.