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**Chlamydia & Gonorrhea: Why We Screen at Your Well Visit**

Chlamydia and gonorrhea are two of the most common sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) found in sexually active teenagers. Both are spread through sexual contact – vaginal, oral and anal sex. Starting at age 16, we will perform a routine urine screen for chlamydia and gonorrhea at your yearly well exam. We screen for these two types of STDs because they can often be present *without any symptoms*. You may refuse the screen, but we strongly encourage it.

If you do test positive for either of these infections, treatment is quick and simple – another reason why you should agree to the screen. If you are carrying this STD and you do not receive treatment, you will be passing this infection on to your partner who in turn will continue to pass it back to you (and perhaps other individuals). It is important to inform your partner if you test positive so that he or she can get treated as well – this is a critical step in preventing the spread of this disease (and preventing you from contracting it again). If symptoms are not treated, it can lead to serious complications.

Most importantly, please remember to practice safe sex. Abstinence is the most effective way to prevent STDs and pregnancy. If you are sexually active, use a condom every single time you have sex.

If and when any of these symptoms present, please call the doctor immediately:

**For females:**

* Abnormal vaginal discharge
* Burning sensation during urination
* Lower abdominal pain
* Lower back pain
* Fever
* Nausea
* Bleeding between periods
* Painful sexual intercourse
* Bleeding with sexual intercourse

**For males:**

* Abnormal discharge from penis
* Itching or burning around the tip of the penis
* A burning sensation while urinating
* Tenderness or pain of the testicles