

Chlamydia Screening in Women

Neighborhood News – April 2025

Chlamydia is the most reported bacterial sexually transmitted disease in the United States, primarily affecting adolescent and young adult females. Untreated, chlamydia can lead to serious, irreversible complications such as pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), infertility, and an increased risk of HIV infection. Screening is crucial, as approximately **75%** of chlamydia infections in women and **95%** in men are asymptomatic, often resulting in delayed treatment.

In the Measurement Year (MY) 2023, the Healthcare Effectiveness Data Information Set (HEDIS®) rate for chlamydia screening in women at Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island (Neighborhood) was 65.51%, a slight increase from the MY 2022 rate of 65.29%.

How can you help?

1. **Universal Screening:** Consider universal screening for all patients ages 16 years and older.
 - **Communication Tip:** Tell patients we automatically screen all patients ages 15-24 years old for chlamydia annually, regardless of their sexual history. Getting screened is a vital part of maintaining health.
2. **Sexual History:** Be sure to take a comprehensive sexual history of your adolescent patients.

Reminders

- A chlamydia culture taken during a Papanicolaou (Pap) smear and urine both meet the chlamydia screening guidelines.
- Urine screening for chlamydia during adolescent well-care or other medical appointments also meets screening guidelines.

Resources

For additional guidance, provider can refer to [the Rhode Island Department of Health Youth and Young Adult Sexual Health App: Right to Know](#).

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