GAY MEN & OTHER MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN

The presence of a Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) increases the risk of contracting HIV. If you are sexually active outside of a mutually monogamous relationship, we recommend testing for HIV & other STDs every six months. An honest conversation with your medical provider can help assure adequate testing and treatment.

Gonorrhea/Chlamydia in Throat and Anus
If you give oral sex or have receptive anal sex, urinating in a cup or a urethral swab is not enough to determine if you have an STD. You could have gonorrhea or chlamydia in your throat or anus. For this reason, you should also have a throat culture and an anal swab. While both of these STDs can be treated if you have a pharyngeal (throat) or anal STD, treatment for infection at one site will not necessarily treat the other. A higher dose of medication may be required than for a penile STD. It is recommended that treatment be given by injection instead of pill form to cure pharyngeal and anal infections of gonorrhea.

Hepatitis A & B Vaccination
The Hepatitis A virus (HAV) can be transmitted through oral-anal contact such as rimming. The Hepatitis B virus (HBV) can be transmitted through anal sex. Both viruses attack the liver, and there are no cures for either but both usually resolve on their own. However, a combination vaccine series can prevent a person from contracting either virus, even when exposed.

Syphilis Testing
Syphilis is again on the rise in Chicago among Gay Men and other MSM. A blood test should be conducted regularly to screen for Syphilis. Syphilis can be treated with antibiotics but any damage that may already exist can not be undone.

HPV and Anal Pap Smear
Most men who contract the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) never exhibit any symptoms. Some types of HPV cause genital warts which can develop on the penis, scrotum, anus, or thighs. Other types of HPV can cause penile or anal cancer especially among men living with HIV. An anal Pap smear should be conducted regularly to detect abnormal anal cells after age 40 and earlier for men living with HIV.

HPV Vaccine and Men
The HPV vaccine is now approved for young men aged 9-26 and may reduce the risk of penile, anal, and pharyngeal (throat) cancers. All men, even those outside this age range & especially if living with HIV, should consider talking with their doctor about the benefits of the HPV vaccine.

Hepatitis C Testing
Hepatitis C (HCV) may be transmitted through unprotected anal sex and through sharing needles. This risk is significantly increased among men living with HIV. While there is no vaccine or cure for HCV, treatment is now available. Talk with your doctor about testing for Hepatitis C.

For referrals to convenient STD testing & Hepatitis vaccination sites, call the State of Illinois AIDS/HIV & STD Hotline anonymously at:

1.800.AID.AIDS | 1.800.243.2437 | 8AM – 10PM DAILY | SE HABLA ESPAÑOL
Transmission of STDs occurs only if your partner has the disease. Proper use of condoms protects against fluid-transmitted STDs like Gonorrhea, Chlamydia, Trichomoniasis, and Hepatitis. They are slightly less effective for skin to skin contact diseases like Syphilis, Genital Human Papillomavirus (HPV), and Herpes. With all STDs, it’s possible for symptoms to go unrecognized or not appear at all. Regular STD testing is recommended for all sexually active people.

### SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES: QUICK FACTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Transmission</th>
<th>Symptoms</th>
<th>Long Term</th>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>Test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syphilis</td>
<td>oral, anal, and vaginal sex. direct skin to skin contact with chancre</td>
<td>primary: painless chancre on genitals, mouth, or rectum; secondary: rash on hands/feet</td>
<td>brain damage, nerve damage, can be fatal</td>
<td>curable with antibiotics, but long-term damage can be irreversible if left untreated</td>
<td>swab test of sore, blood test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gonorrhea</td>
<td>unprotected oral, anal, and vaginal sex</td>
<td>burning urination, discharge, sore throat (through oral sex)</td>
<td>damage of urethra and urinary tract, sterility, throat damage if contracted from giving oral</td>
<td>curable with antibiotics (injection may be needed for throat/rectal infection)</td>
<td>urine test and/or swab test of penis, throat, anus, or vagina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlamydia</td>
<td>unprotected vaginal sex</td>
<td>burning urination, discharge</td>
<td>damage of urethra and urinary tract, sterility</td>
<td>curable with antibiotics</td>
<td>urine test and/or swab test of penis or vagina</td>
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<tr>
<td>Genital HPV</td>
<td>skin to skin genital contact with infected area</td>
<td>genital warts; abnormal cellular changes</td>
<td>abnormal cellular changes may progress to genital cancers</td>
<td>removed surgically or frozen off by doctor. warts may reappear after treatment</td>
<td>visual, anal/vaginal pap smear every year or so to check for precancerous cells</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herpes</td>
<td>oral, anal, vaginal sex or kissing, skin to skin contact with herpes sores or cells</td>
<td>blisters on genitals, thighs, buttocks, or mouth</td>
<td>individuals vary, many continue to have regular outbreaks</td>
<td>no cure, but suppressive medications can reduce severity and number of outbreaks</td>
<td>visual, culture from sore, or blood test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis B</td>
<td>unprotected oral, anal, and vaginal sex or blood contact</td>
<td>may occur an average of 12 weeks after exposure</td>
<td>about 10% of infected adults become chronic</td>
<td>bedrest; once you’ve had it, you won’t get it again; a vaccine is available</td>
<td>blood test</td>
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