

Syphilis Quality Improvement Activity Ideas

- Maintain a syphilis register (password-protected) to track patients; having treatment, their 3/6/12 month follow-ups, if contact tracing was completed and any other additional fields. Having the register means the patient isn't constantly recalled for reinfection and unnecessary treatment is avoided.
- Auditing patients who have had STI testing at the practice in the past X months to see who has received syphilis serology testing as part of their suite of testing.
- Put up posters promoting syphilis serology testing in combination with all other STI testing in the waiting room, brochures board, treatment room and/or screensavers on GP computers.
- Offer syphilis testing during pregnancy (at the first antenatal visit, and again at both 28 weeks and 36 weeks' gestation) and promote in the waiting or treatment room, to mitigate risk of congenital syphilis.
- Having a stock register which captures Benzathine Benzylpenicillin and have the register provide an alert when stock is running low in the practice.
- Creating slots in the appointment book for urgent syphilis (and other STI results) that need to be actioned (e.g., at the end of the clinical day with specific clinicians, in case the patients' preferred GP is fully booked)
- Provide resources to clients around contact tracing and importance in the waiting room, brochures board and/or treatment room.
- Complete a 'Last 10 patients' audit on pregnant patients to see when last syphilis serology test was done and whether recall for next test is in place. If you find this is not the case, analyse reasons why syphilis serology could have been missed based on interpretation of the notes.
- Have syphilis management quick guides in each of the consultation rooms, in order to refer to correct syphilis interpretation and management.
- Have syphilis management desktop backgrounds in each of the GP's computers, so it may act as a prompt for correct management of syphilis.
- Create brochures on information on Jarisch Herxheimer reaction which can also provide information on contact tracing and details on how to do it anonymously.
- Have a syphilis GP and/or nurse champion at your practice, who promotes best-practice syphilis management.

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WA Primary Health Alliance is supported by funding from the Australian Government under the PHN Program.

Rural Health West is funded by the Australian Government and WA Country Health Service.

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