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HPV/STD Education

CHLAMYDIA infection is the most common of Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) in the United States. If untreated, chlamydia can lead to pelvic inflammatory disease and infertility. Sexually active individuals and multiple partners are at high risk for contracting this infection. Only 30% of women will have symptoms.

GONORRHEA is a bacteria STD that can be spread through contact with the penis, vagina, mouth or anus. The symptoms are often mild, but most women who are infected have no symptoms. This STD can also cause Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID) which can lead to infertility.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG) recommends sexually active women under the age of 25 be tested yearly for chlamydia and gonorrhea. Women who are pregnant will be tested for both at their first prenatal visit due to harmful effects these STDs can have on the baby if not treated. (These tests may or may not be covered by your insurance plan)

HUMAN PAPILLOMA VIRUS (HPV) is a virus that has been linked to cervical cancer. If you've had any form of sex, you could've contracted HPV. HPV infection is very common in women under 30 and it usually goes away on its own before it causes a problem. Therefore, medical guidelines don't recommend HPV testing for this age group unless their pap results are inconclusive. Cervical cancer is more common in women who are over 30, because the HPV infection is likely to be persistent at this stage. ACOG recommends women over 30 to be tested for HPV due to this reason.

INSURANCE COVERAGE – Our insurance verification department has called your carrier to verify you have insurance coverage but we don't check specific levels of your coverage or how your insurance pays for specific tests. It is your obligation as a patient to know your plan. Each insurance policy is different. If tests are ordered there is a chance that you will receive a bill from one or more of the labs that we use. **TESTS ARE ORDERED ON A MEDICAL BASIS AND NOT ACCORDING TO YOUR COVERAGE.** Your policy may pay for the tests 100%, but you may have an additional co-pay due to lab services. Tests outside of your yearly well women exam may be subject to your medical deductible and not considered routine care. **PLEASE BE AWARE THAT YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SERVICES PROVIDED TO YOU BY THE LAB.** If you are uncertain of your coverage, please call your insurance provider now and ask them about your coverage for these tests.

The medical assistant will ask if you want any or all of these tests, and your physician will be glad to answer any questions regarding these tests. **HOWEVER, THE PHYSICIANS ARE NOT FAMILIAR WITH YOUR INSURANCE AND WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE COVERAGE OF THESE TESTS.**