



January 6, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

CDC recently released [Recommendations for Providing Quality Sexually Transmitted Diseases Clinical Services, 2020](#) (or STD QCS). The goal of this report is to highlight the services healthcare settings can offer to provide the highest-quality STD care. This guidance can help healthcare facilities assess which STD care services they offer and identify opportunities to build, maintain or enhance those services.

STD QCS is designed to work hand-in-hand with [CDC's 2015 STD Treatment Guidelines](#). While STD Treatment Guidelines guide clinical management of patients, the new STD QCS can help guide clinical operations. For [example](#), where the Treatment Guidelines recommend which drug regimen to use to treat a patient, QCS suggests which drug regimens could or should be kept in stock.

STD QCS is structured to provide recommendations based on clinical setting type – primary care or STD specialty care. While STD clinics remain a critical part of our healthcare infrastructure and public health STD prevention and control strategies, more and more Americans get tested and treated in other settings, including primary care, HIV care and family planning clinics. QCS was designed with this shift in mind and the reality that provision of service varies by setting type.

STD QCS recommendations are outlined in the following eight key sections:

- 1) Sexual history and physical examination
- 2) Prevention
- 3) Screening
- 4) Partner services
- 5) Evaluation of STD-related conditions
- 6) Laboratory
- 7) Treatment
- 8) Referral to a specialist for complex STD or STD-related conditions.

We are working with the National Association for City and County Health Officials (NACCHO) to develop resources that healthcare administrators and providers can use to assess their current services and help determine whether additional services could or should be made available for the patients they serve. Please stay tuned for more information on those.

It is important to note that the recommendations do not capture every service available in healthcare settings. They also are not intended to mandate or regulate clinical services or measure how well services are being performed. Again, this report highlights the services that can be offered to provide the highest-quality STD care for patients. Simply put: STD QCS can provide a roadmap for optimizing STD care.

As STD rates climb to unprecedented highs in our country, CDC remains committed to providing guidance and resources to help providers give the very best care and we thank you for your continued commitment.

Best Regards,

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