August 4, 2006

Dear Colleague,

We are pleased to announce publication today of *Sexually Transmitted Diseases Treatment Guidelines, 2006,* in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) Recommendations and Reports.* These guidelines for the treatment of patients who have sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) were developed by CDC after consultation with a group of professionals knowledgeable in the field of STDs who met in Atlanta on April 19–21, 2005.

The Guidelines are based on newly available evidence and include:

- The latest information on the presentation, appropriate screening, and treatment of STDs among men who have sex with men;
- New evidence on the benefits of rescreening for chlamydia and gonorrhea;
- Recommendations for partner-delivered therapy for gonorrhea and chlamydia, if other strategies for reaching partners are not likely to succeed;
- New medications and treatment regimens to treat chlamydia and trichomoniasis and decrease herpes simplex virus 2 (HSV2) transmission; and
- Information on the new HPV vaccine.

Over 18 million cases of STDs occur in the U.S. each year, with a disproportionate share among young people and racial and ethnic minority populations. The estimated annual direct medical costs of treating STDs and their sequelae are $13 billion. These 2006 Guidelines, which update the 2002 Guidelines, are an important tool to address this major public health challenge. CDC revises the Guidelines periodically, approximately every three to four years, using a scientific, evidence-based process that includes CDC and external expert review of current scientific literature.

To obtain a copy of the guidelines, please go to our Web site at [http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/](http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/) or call CDC NPIN (National Prevention Information Network) at 800-458-5231 (M-F 9am-8pm ET).

Sincerely,

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