

## PREVENTION CONTINUED

Use of a condom (rubber) during sexual intercourse is the best way to help prevent some sexually transmitted diseases (infection). There is evidence to conclude condoms prevent HIV transmission in males and females, and that they could reduce the risk of gonorrhea for men. Additional studies are needed to determine effectiveness for other STD, including Chlamydia.



*All women have a small amount of discharge from their vagina. It is normal for this discharge to increase for a few days between menstrual periods.*

*A discharge is not normal when it causes itching, changes color, or has an unpleasant odor. If you have symptoms, call your doctor or the clinic for an infection check.*



### **SAGINAW COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

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#### **PERSONAL AND PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES**

##### **UNIT 1 (FAMILY PLANNING)**

MAIN CLINIC (989) 758-3670 OR 758-3676  
CHESANING CLINIC (989) 845-3911

##### **UNIT 3 (STD)**

(989) 758-3880

# CHLAMYDIA

# CHLAMYDIA INFECTION

**Chlamydia infection** is one type of vaginal infection. It has become one of the most common sexually transmitted diseases (STD), especially in persons aged 25 years and younger, and is often found with gonorrhea. Many women and men with Chlamydia have no symptoms until complications set in.

## SYMPTOMS

Women: Symptoms include genital itching and burning, a vaginal discharge, dull chronic pelvic pain, bleeding between menstrual periods and a low-grade fever.

Men: Symptoms include a discharge from the penis and/or painful urination, burning and itching around the opening of the penis. Chlamydia is a major cause of PID (pelvic inflammatory disease) in women and, if not treated may cause sterility (inability to have children).

The risk of tubal pregnancy, miscarriage and stillbirth is much higher in pregnant women with Chlamydia and Newborns may develop eye and lung infections if the mother has Chlamydia. Remember most women and some men with Chlamydia have NO SYMPTOMS!

## TRANSMISSION

Chlamydia infections are most often spread by direct sexual contact. Babies can get Chlamydia during birth if the mother had the infection. Having Chlamydia can increase your chance of getting the HIV virus if exposed.

## DIAGNOSIS

A laboratory test is needed to diagnose a Chlamydia infection. The test (a culture) is taken from the cervix or the end of the penis with a small cotton swab and sent to the lab. Chlamydia can also be detected within a urine sample. This test may be done even when there are no symptoms.

## TREATMENT

Chlamydia is easily cured with an antibiotic prescribed by the clinic or your doctor. Unfortunately, any organ damage caused by Chlamydia cannot be reversed.

## PREVENTION

The more sexual partners you have, the greater your chance of getting an infection.

Do not have intercourse with anyone who had an infection or is being treated for an infection.

Do not use feminine sprays or douches. They can change the normal balance of bacteria in the vagina and increase your chances of getting a vaginal infection.