

Subject: Important Health Screening for Teenagers: Understanding STD Testing

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We hope this letter finds you well. We are writing to explain an important aspect of adolescent health care: routine screening for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), specifically gonorrhea and chlamydia, in all teenagers aged 16 years and older.

The primary reason for this practice is to protect the health and well-being of your child. Both gonorrhea and chlamydia are common infections that often show no symptoms, especially in their early stages. If left undiagnosed and untreated, they can lead to serious health complications, including infertility. By routinely testing for these infections, we can detect and treat them early, preventing potential long-term consequences.

Furthermore, this routine screening is not only a best practice for preventive healthcare but also a Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) measure. HEDIS is a widely used set of performance measures in the managed care industry, developed and maintained by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). Insurance companies require these screenings as part of their commitment to improving health care quality.

It's important to note that this screening is not a reflection of your child's character or decisions, but rather a standard preventive measure we take to ensure the health of all our patients. The tests are conducted confidentially, and the results are handled with utmost privacy and respect.

We encourage you to talk with your child about this aspect of their health care. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. If you do not want the testing done, please let the doctor know at your child's well visit. We are here to provide your child with the best possible care and to help you navigate these important aspects of their health.

Thank you for your understanding and support in this matter.

Drs. Maxey, Chugani, & Ference