

MORNING CMO REPORT

02.22.2017

FROM THE DESK OF:

Anthony P. Weiss, MD, Chief Medical Officer,
Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs,
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UPSTATE
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

Message from the Onondaga County Commissioner of Health – Increasing Rates of STI's

Applies to All Physicians

STIs
Advisory

Onondaga County is facing a marked increase in cases of sexually transmitted diseases (STIs). According to the 2015 statistics, STIs are on the rise in Onondaga County. Alarming, Onondaga County has the highest incidence of gonorrhea in New York State and ranks among the counties with the highest incidence of chlamydia and syphilis. Undiagnosed and inadequately treated STIs can cause significant morbidity. All of these STIs are associated with the increased risk for acquisition of HIV.

We realize that this is an urgent issue with no ready and easy solutions. However, your commitment to have an open communication with your patients regarding STIs will help us fight the upward trend. I wanted to bring this to your attention because these STIs are treatable and preventable. Please review and share the attached recommendations to curb this epidemic. Please contact our medical directors or staff at the STD clinic or myself for any questions.

VOCERA Education

Applies to All Physicians

VOCERA
Advisory

Just a quick update on a new policy for those of you who use Vocera for communication. The new Vocera Policy (V-14) addresses Vocera Equipment Inventory Management practices, compliance with Upstate's Computer and Information System Acceptable Use Policy (UW I-05) as well as the Upstate Code of Conduct (HCP C-01).

- According to the policy, in order to decrease noise levels, every effort should be made to minimize the use of Push to talk, Broadcast or Blast Page unless absolutely necessary.

1. Inventory Management

- Vocera equipment must remain on campus. If it is necessary to remove a Vocera badge or accessory from Campus, prior approval from the unit/department manager or director must be granted.

ALERT-Highest priority emergency communication; warrants immediate action or attention by the recipient.

HIGH ADVISORY-High priority does not warrant immediate action but recipients should be aware.

ADVISORY-Provides very important information for a specific incident or situation that does not require immediate action.

UPDATES TO ALERTS AND ADVISORIES-Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

INFORMATIONAL MESSAGE-Provides timely information, important for review or serves as a reminder for an action that should be taken.

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2. Acceptable Use/ Proper Vocera Etiquette

- o Avoid unnecessary use, such as Push-To-Talk or Broadcast, when a direct call to a staff member is appropriate. Unit/department-specific guidelines and procedures must be followed.
 - If you are in a room and need something **Do Not** use the Push-to-Talk feature, when you can call one person.
 - If staff have ordered food from outside **Do Not** use the Push-to-Talk feature to alert the entire unit that the food is here. Patients do not need to hear this.
- o Always be respectful and professional while using the Vocera system. Every effort should be made to protect patient health information and privacy.
 - **Do Not** log in under someone else's name/account.
 - **ALWAYS ASK** "if a person is in an acceptable area and can they talk", prior to discussing patient or family information.

Outstanding Physician Comments

[Applies to All Physicians](#)

Each week we receive written comments from our patients regarding the care we provide within the Hospital. Below are this week's comments from grateful patients receiving care on the units and clinics at Upstate:

6th floor - Community Campus – Dr. Simon is amazing!

6th floor - Community Campus – Dr. Damon was great, truly concerned, personable and professional.

Center for Children's Surgery – Drs. Mason and Spencer were amazing.

Dr Smith and the staff were wonderful and made us so comfortable and content.

Dr Ahmed has always been so great with our son. He is so knowledgeable and makes us feel very good about leaving him in his care.

Immune Health Services– Dr. Reddy returns my emails/calls ASAP.

Radiology CG – Team of Jackie, Missy, Pete, Norine and Dr. Kobayashi - all were exceptionally nice, informative and put me at ease

Missy, **Dr. Karmel**, Norine, Joan - they helped me, explained what to expect. They all helped me stay calm, were very helpful.

Comments
Informational

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Onondaga County Health Department

Joanne M. Mahoney, County Executive
Indu Gupta, MD, MPH, Commissioner of Health

John H. Mulroy Civic Center • 421 Montgomery Street, Syracuse, NY 13202



Increasing Rates of Sexually Transmitted Infections in Onondaga County: A Troubling Trend That Warrants an Urgent Response

Incidence:

According to the 2015 statistics, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are on the rise in Onondaga County. Alarming, **Onondaga County has the highest incidence of gonorrhea in New York State, and ranks among the counties with the highest incidence of chlamydia and syphilis** (Fig 1). These STIs cases were diagnosed in the Onondaga County Health Department Sexually Transmitted Diseases (OCHD STD) clinic and other medical practices in the community. Since STIs are reportable diseases to the public health department, it helps us assess any new trend in our community and design a plan for intervention.

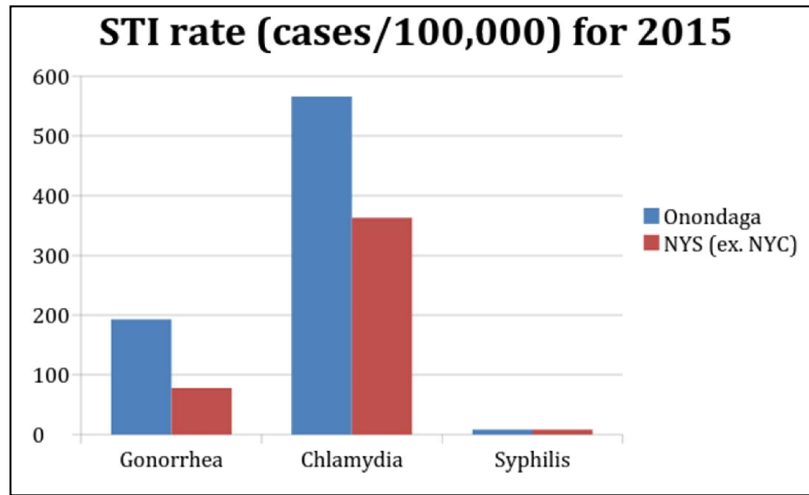


Fig 1: STI rates in Onondaga County 2015

Significant Health Concerns:

Undiagnosed and inadequately treated STIs can cause significant morbidity. Gonorrhea and Chlamydia infections can result in increased risk for urogenital, pelvic inflammatory disease, and severe reproductive morbidity. Untreated early syphilis can lead to neurosyphilis, of which several cases have been diagnosed locally in the last 2 years. Gonorrhea and chlamydia infections tend to be concentrated in young heterosexual teens and adults, while syphilis infections tend to be concentrated in men who have sex with men. Nonetheless, all three infections cross-cut all boundaries of age, race, and gender. All of these STIs are associated with the increased risk for acquisition of HIV.

OCHD recommendations:

In order to turn the tide on STIs in Onondaga County, we are asking for your commitment to testing and appropriate treatment of patients and their partners. Please consider the following during evaluation of your patients:

- **Sexual history** should be part of an outpatient standard of care in all wellness visits for patients aged 13 and older.

- Sexually **active females aged less than 25 years should be tested annually** for gonorrhea and chlamydia using nucleic acid amplification (NAAT) assays from vaginal swabs (or urine if vaginal swab is not available or is impractical).
- Sexually active **men less than 25 years old should be tested annually** for gonorrhea and chlamydia in high risk settings, including public health clinics and clinics with high rates of STIs.
- Men and women aged **25 years and older** should be tested for gonorrhea and chlamydia at least annually when they have new sexual partners.
- **Men who have sex with men (MSM)** and heterosexual men and women with **multiple sex partners** should be tested at least **annually** for syphilis.
- **Partners of patients** with gonorrhea or chlamydia from the last 60 days and partners of patients with syphilis from the last 90 days should be **empirically treated** with standard regimens for the specific pathogen, and practice sexual abstinence for 7 days after both partners have been treated. The Onondaga County STD Center will assist with **anonymous partner notification and treatment**. Call 315-435-3236 and ask to speak with an STD provider.
- **Under New York State Expedited Partner Therapy Law**, patients with chlamydia can be given prescriptions for azithromycin 1g PO x 1 dose written to “Expedited Partner Therapy”. These prescriptions can be given to the patients’ partners to facilitate treatment.
- At least **annual testing for HIV** using a fourth generation combination antigen/antibody assay is recommended for all persons with new partners in the last year.
- **Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV**: For HIV negative persons with repeated STIs, those with syphilis, those with multiple sex partners or whose partners have multiple partners, and MSM, please consider discussion about pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV. PrEP services are also available at the Onondaga County STD center.

Treatment Guidelines and Reference Material:

Virtually all STIs are amenable to routine laboratory tests; prevention and treatment measures are readily available and effective. For your convenience I am sending you the current CDC guidelines

- For the latest guidelines for treatment of all the STIs, please click on this link - <https://www.cdc.gov/std/tg2015/tg-2015-print.pdf>
- Information about smart phone STI treatment app, pocket guide and posters for you and your office staff for quick references, please click on this link- <https://www.cdc.gov/std/tg2015/default.htm>
- Expedited partner treatment is permissible by public health law in NYS. Please review this link: --<https://www.cdc.gov/std/ept/default.htm>

We eagerly welcome your collaborative effort to address this worsening problem. Our STD center medical directors, Dr Quoc Nguyen and Dr Elizabeth Asiago-Reddy with the dedicated staff of nurse practitioners (NP), registered nurses (RN) and communicable disease investigators (CDI) look forward to an active partnership with you in addressing this preventable crisis. Contact OCHD STD clinic at 315-435-3236.