

**SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS
(Screening and Counseling)****Counseling to Prevent Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) (Counseling)**

Physicians and other healthcare providers play a critical role in preventing and treating sexually transmitted infections (STIs).¹ Clinicians have the opportunity to provide client education and counseling and to participate in identifying and treating persons with STIs as well as their infected sex partners.

The USPSTF recommends that clinicians educate all adolescents and adults on the risk factors for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and counsel patients on effective measures to reduce their risk of infection. Counseling should be tailored to the needs of the individual and should take into consideration the abilities of each patient.²

Interactive counseling approaches directed at a patient's personal risk, the situations in which risk occurs, and use of goal-setting strategies are effective in STI prevention.³ Results from randomized controlled trials demonstrate that, compared with traditional approaches to providing information, certain brief risk-reduction counseling approaches can reduce the occurrence of new sexually transmitted infections by 25% to 40% among STI clinic patients.⁴

Physicians and other providers should counsel their sexually active patients on the following STIs: chlamydia, gonorrhea, hepatitis B, HIV, and syphilis.

Authored by:

Campbell KP, Lentine D. Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) evidence-statement: screening and counseling. In: Campbell KP, Lanza A, Dixon R, Chattopadhyay S, Molinari N, Finch RA, editors. *A Purchaser's Guide to Clinical Preventive Services: Moving Science into Coverage*. Washington, DC: National Business Group on Health; 2006.

References:**Counseling to Prevent Sexually Transmitted Infections (Counseling)**

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