



Gavin Newsom
Mayor

Mitchell H. Katz, MD
Director of Health

February 1, 2006

Re: Retesting for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea Infection at 3 Months

Dear STD Screening Site Providers:

As part of the SFDPH STD Screening Program, the chlamydia and gonorrhea specimens you submit to the Public Health Laboratory are tested with Nucleic Acid Amplification Tests (NAATs). These tests (currently we use Genprobe APTIMA) are the most sensitive tests available for detecting chlamydia (CT) and gonorrhea (GC). The increased sensitivity of these tests allow us to identify cases of infection that would have been missed with previous testing technology (such as culture). However, the increased sensitivity also means that persons who test positive may continue to test positive for up to 21 days after treatment. Therefore, we no longer recommend a routine "test of cure," or any retest within one month of treatment, for patients that test positive for chlamydia or gonorrhea.

Subsequent rescreening at 3 to 4 months after treatment is strongly recommended for all females and males that test positive for chlamydia and/or gonorrhea to identify potential reinfection from untreated sex partners. Studies have shown that reinfection rates range from 10% to 16% in different populations. Rescreening at 3 to 4 months after treatment allows us to identify and treat any cases of reinfection before the patient experiences negative outcomes.

At City Clinic we are working on different reminder systems to get patients to return for rescreening. A recent survey conducted in our clinic found that most patients preferred a telephone call (78%, 156/200) as the best way to remind them of their need to get tested. Depending on your clinic, you may wish to utilize one or more of the following reminder systems:

- Telephone Call** at 3 months after treatment
- Appointment Card** given to patients at time of CT or GC treatment
- Email** at 3 months after treatment
- Letter** at 3 months after treatment
- Postcard** at 3 months after treatment

If you have any questions about rescreening reminders or about the STD screening program, please contact Ameera Snell at 415-487-5515.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey D. Klausner".

Jeffrey D. Klausner, MD, MPH
Deputy Health Officer and Director

PLEASE POST