



# The Rise of Sexually Transmitted Infections: An Alarming Trend of a Familiar Foe

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# Disclosures

All planners, presenters, reviewers, and ASHP staff of this session report no financial relationships relevant to this activity.

# The Rise of Sexually Transmitted Infections: an Alarming Trend of a Familiar Foe

## Session Learning Objectives:

- Explain recent updates to the sexually transmitted infection (STI) treatment guidelines.
- Identify reasons behind the increase in STIs in the United States over the last three years.
- Given a patient case, develop an appropriate treatment strategy for a patient with an STI.

## Patient Case

**CJ is a 25 year old bisexual black male living with HIV who presents to clinic for a 6 month follow up appointment. He reports several casual sex partners for oral, receptive, and insertive anal sex since last visit. States he/his partners wear condoms “when we can remember.” He tolerates his medication well, reports 100% adherence, and has no complaints today.**

**Allergies: NKDA**

**Current medications:**

**Bictegravir/emtricitabine/tenofovir alafenamide 50/200/25 mg PO daily**

# Patient Case

## Pertinent PMH:

HIV – diagnosed 1/2017; risk factor = bisexual; CD4 nadir = 532 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>

Chlamydia – 1/2017, treated

Gonorrhea – 1/2017, treated

Syphilis – 1/2017 (RPR 1:256), treated; most recent RPR = 1:2 on 4/2018

## Pertinent Labs from 11/20/18 (2 weeks prior to appointment date):

HIV-RNA = <20 copies/mL      CD4/% = 711/35 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>      RPR = 1:64

GC/Chlam (rectal, throat, oral) = POS/POS; neg/neg; POS/neg

Comprehensive metabolic panel = WNL

# Pre-Test Question 1

**Based on CJ's labs from 11/2018, what treatments, if any, are recommended?**

- A. Amoxicillin + benzathine penicillin G + doxycycline**
- B. Azithromycin + benzathine penicillin G + ceftriaxone**
- C. Azithromycin + ceftriaxone**
- D. Benzathine penicillin G + ceftriaxone**
- E. None, as he was treated previously 1/2017**

## Pre-Test Question 2

**Due to increased resistance concerns, which is the most appropriate treatment for gonococcal infections based on the most recent STI guidelines?**

- A. Amoxicillin + cefixime**
- B. Azithromycin**
- C. Azithromycin + ceftriaxone**
- D. Cefixime**
- E. Ceftriaxone**

**“Nearly 2.3 million cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis were diagnosed in the United States in 2017, according to preliminary data...**

**This surpassed the previous record set in 2016 by more than 200,000 cases and marked the fourth consecutive year of sharp increases in these sexually transmitted diseases.”**



# STD DIAGNOSES AMONG KEY U.S. POPULATIONS, 5-YEAR TRENDS

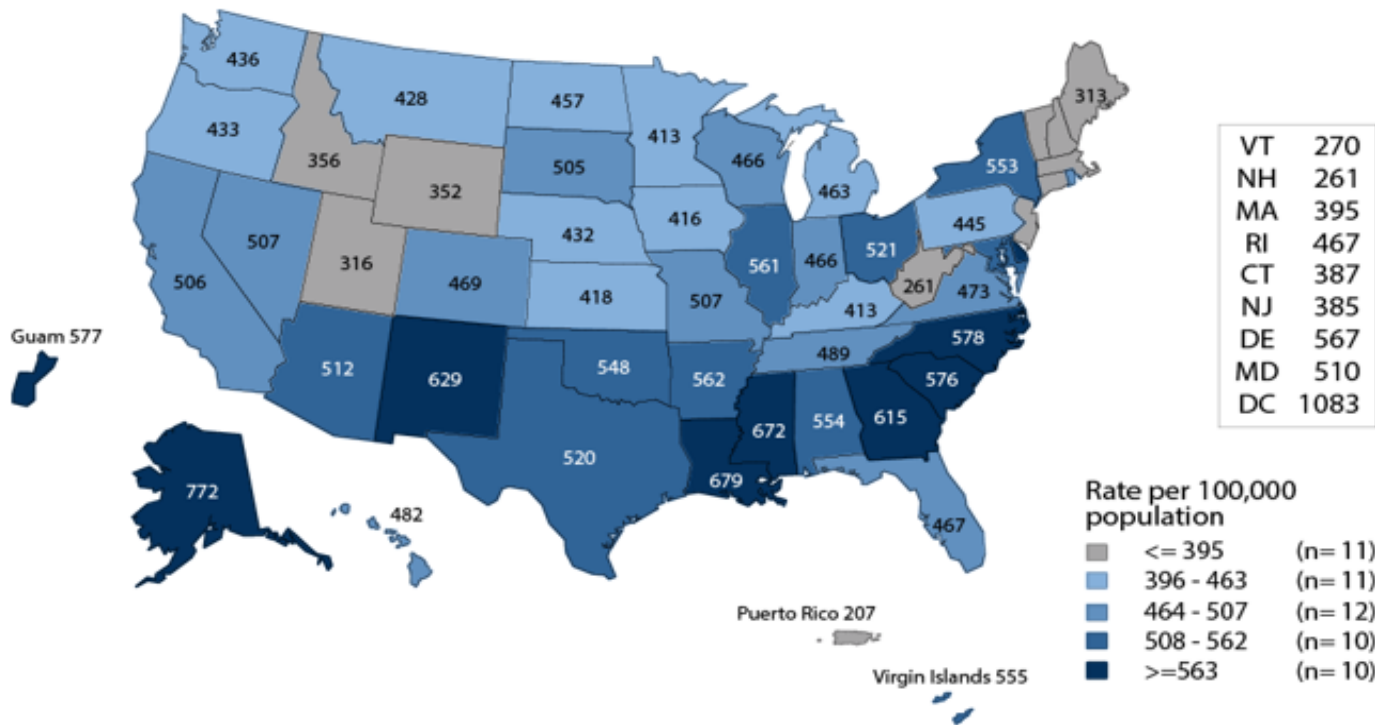
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017*
<b>Chlamydia</b>	1,401,906	1,441,789	1,526,658	1,598,354	1,708,569
<i>Among young women (aged 15 to 24)</i>	715,983	709,170	724,709	735,027	771,340
<b>Gonorrhea</b>	333,004	350,062	395,216	468,514	555,608
<i>Among women</i>	163,208	162,608	173,514	197,499	232,587
<i>Among men</i>	169,130	186,943	221,070	270,033	322,169
<b>Primary &amp; secondary syphilis</b>	17,375	19,999	23,872	27,814	30,644
<i>Among MSM**</i>	10,451	12,226	14,229	16,149	17,736
<b>Combined cases</b>	<b>1,752,285</b>	<b>1,811,850</b>	<b>1,945,746</b>	<b>2,094,682</b>	<b>2,294,821</b>

\*Preliminary data

\*\*Men who have sex with men

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/newsroom/docs/2018/table-data-2018-STD-Prevention-Conference.pdf>. Accessed September 4, 2018.

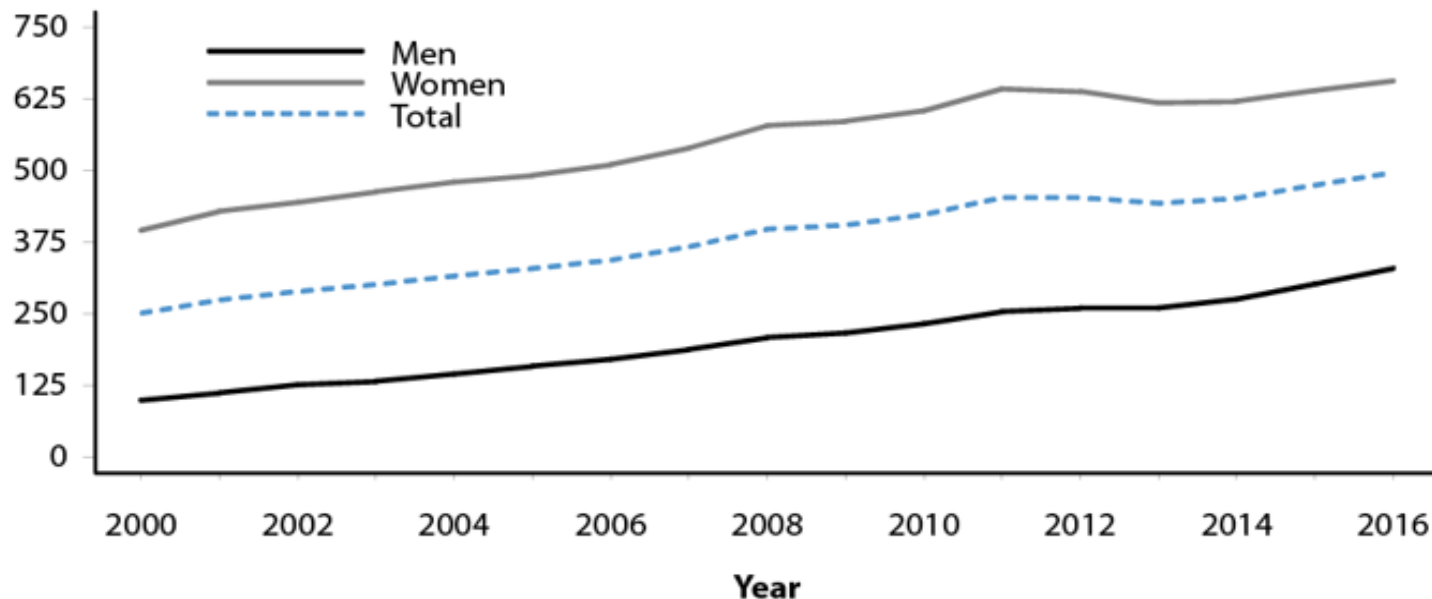
# Chlamydia — Rates of Reported Cases by State, United States and Outlying Areas, 2016



**NOTE:** The total rate of reported cases of chlamydia for the United States and outlying areas (Guam, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands) was 494.2 per 100,000 population.

# Chlamydia — Rates of Reported Cases by Sex, United States, 2000–2016

Rate (per 100,000 population)



**NOTE:** Data collection for chlamydia began in 1984 and chlamydia was made nationally notifiable in 1995; however, chlamydia was not reportable in all 50 states and the District of Columbia until 2000. Refer to the National Notifiable Disease Surveillance System (NNDSS) website for more information: <https://www.cdc.gov/nndss/conditions/chlamydia-trachomatis-infection/>.

# *Chlamydia trachomatis* Recommended Treatments

## Adults and Adolescents

- **Azithromycin 1 g PO as a single dose**
- **-OR-**
- **Doxycycline 100 mg PO twice daily for 7 days**

## Pregnancy

- **Azithromycin 1 g PO as a single dose**

g = gram; mg = milligram; PO = by mouth

# *Chlamydia trachomatis* Treatment Updates

## Updates from the Guidelines from 2010-2015

- Amoxicillin 500 mg PO three times daily for 7 days acceptable alternative in pregnancy
- Data are limited on the effectiveness and optimal dose of azithromycin for chlamydial infection in infants and children < 45 kg (urogenital, rectal)
- Azithromycin 20 mg/kg/day PO daily for 3 days (neonates: ophthalmia, neonatorum, pneumonia)

kg = kilogram; mg = milligram; PO = by mouth

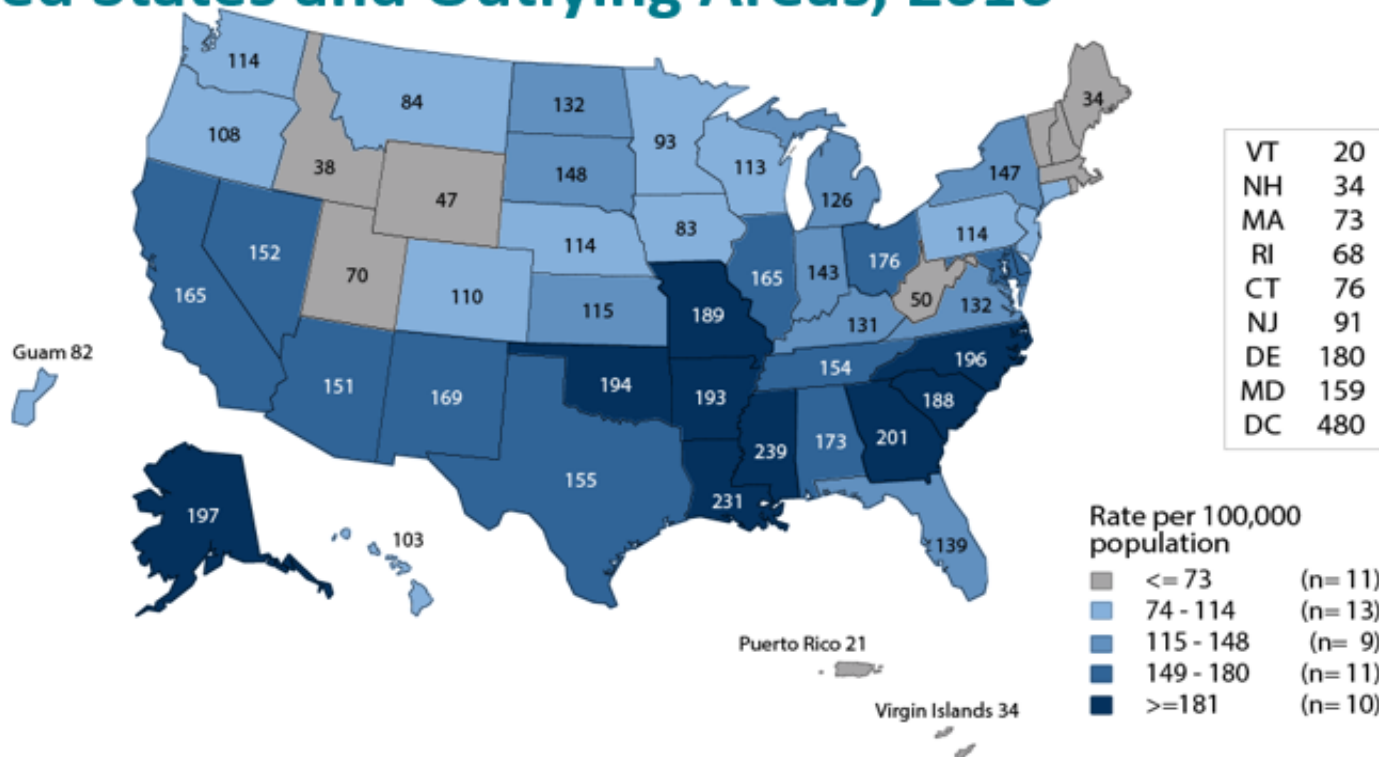
# *Chlamydia trachomatis* Goals of Therapy

**Goal of therapy = CURE INFECTION!**

**Test of cure (3-4 weeks s/p treatment):**

- **Adults and adolescents not advised unless adherence is in question, symptoms persist, or re-infection suspected**
- **Repeat testing should occur about 3 months s/p treatment**
- **Pregnant, infants, and children is recommended**

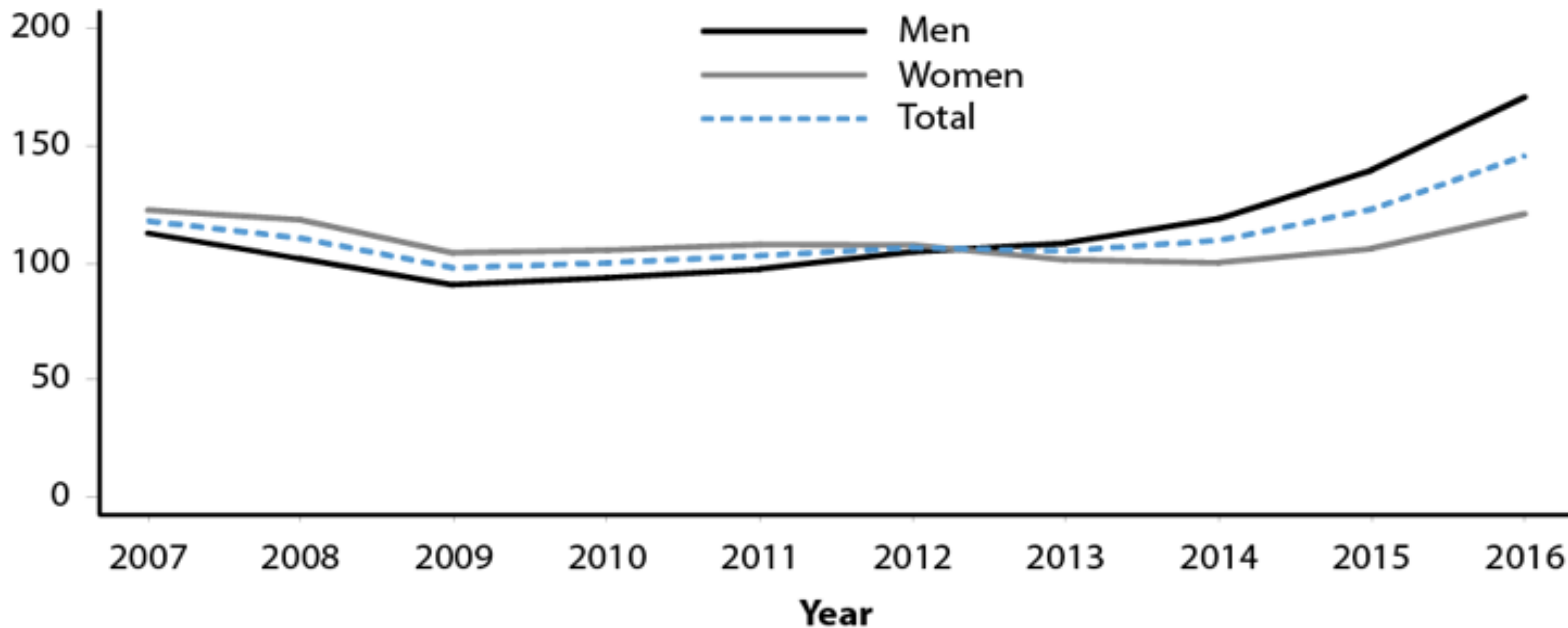
# Gonorrhea — Rates of Reported Cases by State, United States and Outlying Areas, 2016



**NOTE:** The total rate of reported cases of gonorrhea for the United States and outlying areas (Guam, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands) was 144.4 per 100,000 population.

# Gonorrhea — Rates of Reported Cases by Sex, United States, 2007–2016

Rate (per 100,000 population)





# Neisseria Gonorrhoea Treatments and Updates

Adults, adolescents, and children >45 kg; uncomplicated gonococcal infections of the cervix, urethra, and rectum

- Ceftriaxone 250 mg IM as a single dose PLUS one dose of azithromycin 1 g PO

Alternative Regimens (also updates in treatment guidelines from 2010-2015)

- Ceftriaxone is unavailable:
  - One dose each of cefixime 400 mg PO PLUS azithromycin 1 g PO
- Cephalosporin allergy:
  - One dose each of gemifloxacin 320 mg PO PLUS azithromycin 2 g PO
  - One dose each of gentamicin 240 mg IM PLUS azithromycin 2 g PO

g= gram; IM = intramuscular; mg = milligram; PO = by mouth

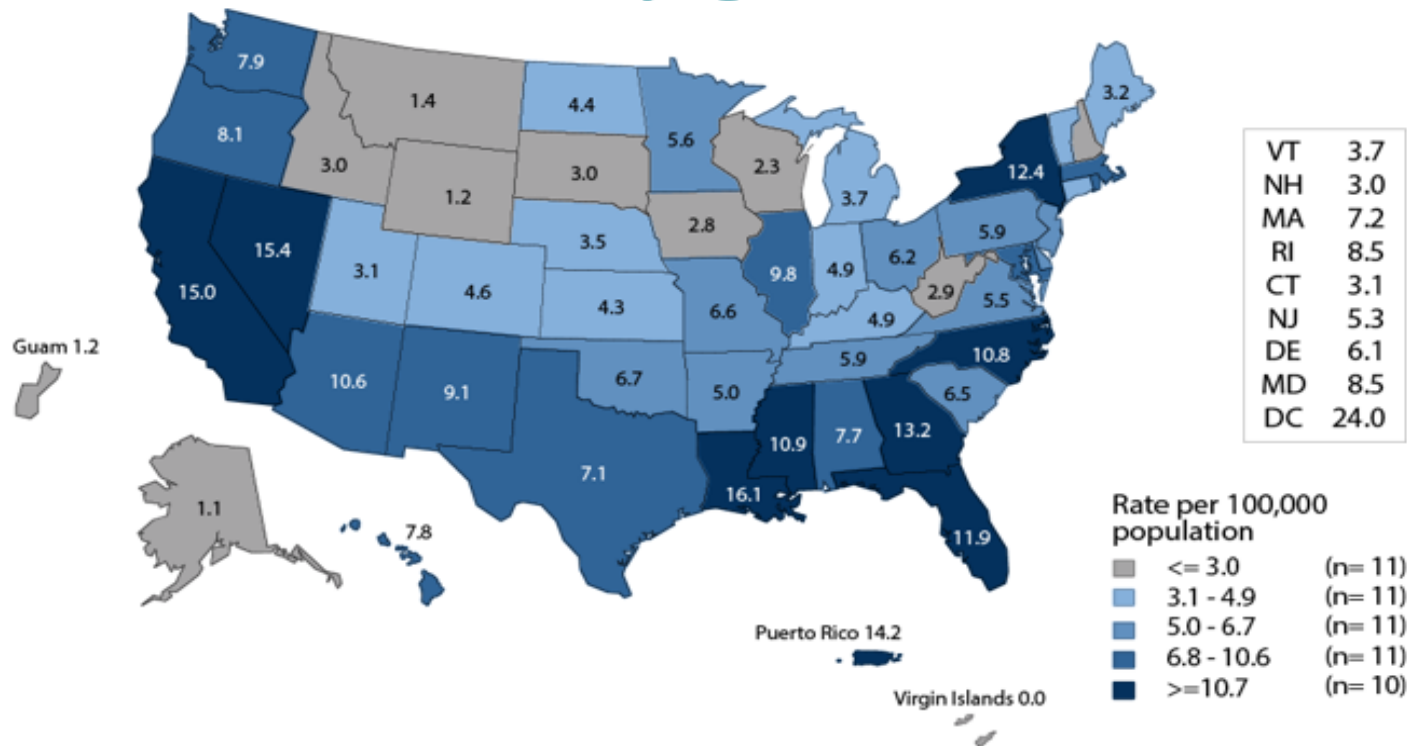
# *Neisseria Gonorrhoea* Goals of Therapy

**Goal of therapy = CURE INFECTION!**

**Test of cure (14 days s/p treatment):**

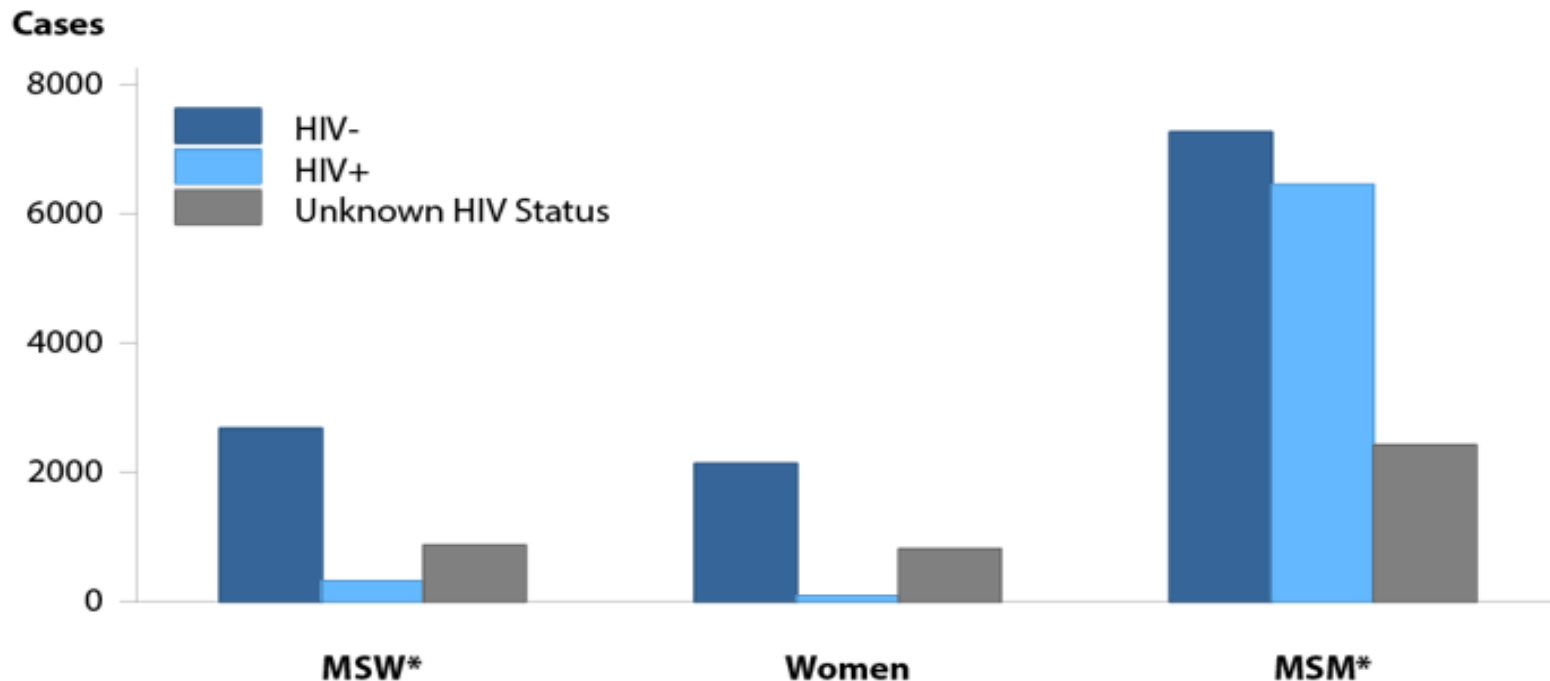
- **Adults and adolescents not needed unless treated with alternative regimen for pharyngeal gonorrhoea**
  - If positive, susceptibility testing should be performed
  - Should retest about 3 months s/p treatment
- **Pregnant, infants, and children test-of-cure is recommended**
- **If symptoms persist s/p treatment → susceptibility testing**

# Primary and Secondary Syphilis — Rates of Reported Cases by State, United States and Outlying Areas, 2016



**NOTE:** The total rate of reported cases of primary and secondary syphilis for the United States and outlying areas (Guam, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands) was 8.7 per 100,000 population.

# Primary and Secondary Syphilis — Reported Cases by Sex, Sexual Behavior, and HIV Status, United States, 2016



\* MSM = Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (collectively referred to as MSM); MSW = Men who have sex with women only.

# Syphilis *Treponema pallidum* Recommended Treatments

## Primary, secondary, or early latent <1 year

- **Benzathine penicillin G 2.4 million units IM as a single dose**

## Latent >1 year, latent of unknown duration

- **Benzathine penicillin G 2.4 million units IM for 3 doses given 1 week apart**

IM = intramuscular

# Syphilis *Treponema pallidum* Alternative Treatments

## Primary, secondary, or early latent <1 year

- Doxycycline 100 mg PO twice daily for 14 days
- Tetracycline 500 mg PO four times daily for 14 days

## Latent >1 year, latent of unknown duration

- Doxycycline 100 mg PO twice daily for 28 days
- Tetracycline 500 mg PO four times daily for 28 days

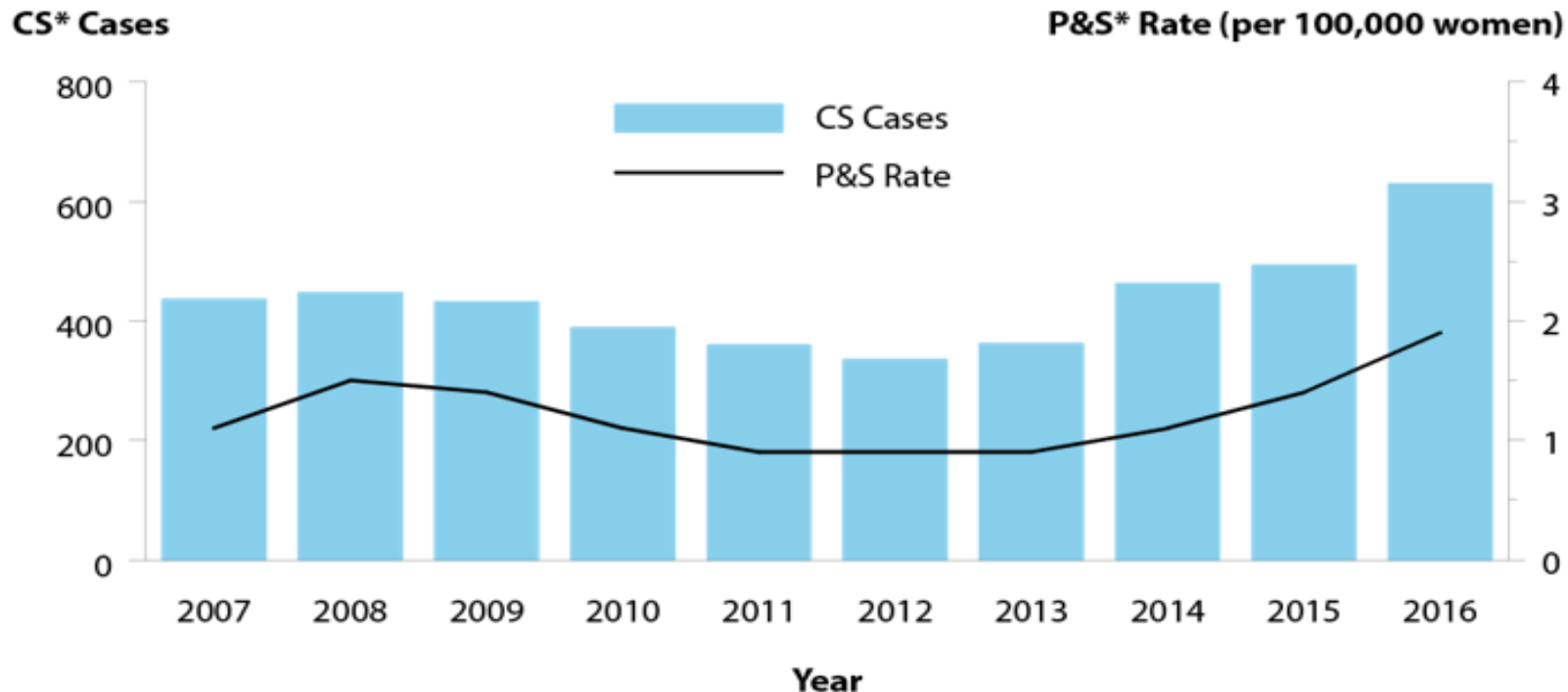
mg = milligram; PO = by mouth

# Syphilis *Treponema pallidum* Goals of Therapy

**Goal of therapy = at least a 4-fold (2 dilution) decline within 6-12 months after therapy for primary or secondary (e.g. 1:256 → 1:64 or 1:32 → 1:8)**

- **15-20% may not achieve the 4-fold/2 dilution decrease within 1 year**
- **Factors associating: person's stage of syphilis (earlier more likely to decline 4-fold) and initial lower titer**
- **Clinical Pearl: 1 dilution variation may be lab variation, therefore, typically want to see at least 2 dilution positive change to alter or re-treat**

# Congenital Syphilis — Reported Cases by Year of Birth and Rates of Reported Cases of Primary and Secondary Syphilis Among Women, United States, 2007–2016



\* CS = Congenital syphilis; P&S = Primary and secondary syphilis.



# Updates in STI Treatment Guidelines From 2010 to 2015

## Congenital Syphilis

### Proven or highly probable (1 of 2 treatment options)

- Aqueous crystalline penicillin G 100,000 – 150,000 units/kg/day, administered as 50,000 units/kg/dose IV every 12 hours during the first 7 days of life and every 8 hours thereafter for a total of 10 days
- Procaine penicillin G 50,000 units/kg/dose IM in a single daily dose for 10 days

### Probable (1 of 3 treatment options)

- Above 2 treatment options
- Benzathine penicillin G 50,000 units/kg/dose IM in a single dose

IM = intramuscular; IV = intravenous; kg = kilogram

# Updates in STI Treatment Guidelines From 2010 to 2015

## Congenital Syphilis

### Less Likely

- Benzathine penicillin G 50,000 units/kg/dose IM x 1 dose
- If mother's titer decreased 4-fold after appropriate treatment for early syphilis, or remained low/stable for latent syphilis may also NOT treat, and provide close serologic follow-up every 2-3 months for 6 months

### Unlikely

- No treatment required
- If needed, benzathine penicillin G 50,000 units/kg as a single IM dose might be considered, particularly if follow-up is uncertain

# KEY TAKEAWAYS

## 1) PREVENTABLE STIS CONTINUE TO RISE ACROSS THE USA

*Some regions and patients are being impacted more aggressively than others.*

## 2) CONCERNS FOR RESISTANCE

*Treating gonorrhea should include BOTH ceftriaxone 250 mg intramuscularly as well as azithromycin 1 g by mouth.*

## 3) THESE STIS ARE CURRENTLY PREVENTABLE AND CURABLE!!!

*This cannot be emphasized enough.*



# The Rise of Sexually Transmitted Infections: An Alarming Trend of a Familiar Foe

Danielle Colayco, Pharm.D., M.S.  
Director, Health Outcomes & Value Strategy  
Komoto Healthcare

# Why is this Happening?!

- **Low condom use**
- **Increased numbers in populations/demographics with usually lower incidence (i.e. newborns)**
- **Dating apps**
- **More people are getting tested**
- **Cuts to public health funds**
- **Antibiotic resistance**
  - **Concerns with gonorrhea**

# What can be done?

## CDC

- **Train frontline health workers, provide STI prevention resources to state and local health departments**

## State and local health departments

- **Direct resources to STI investigation and clinical service infrastructure for rapid detection and treatment for people living in areas with high epidemic**

# What can be done?

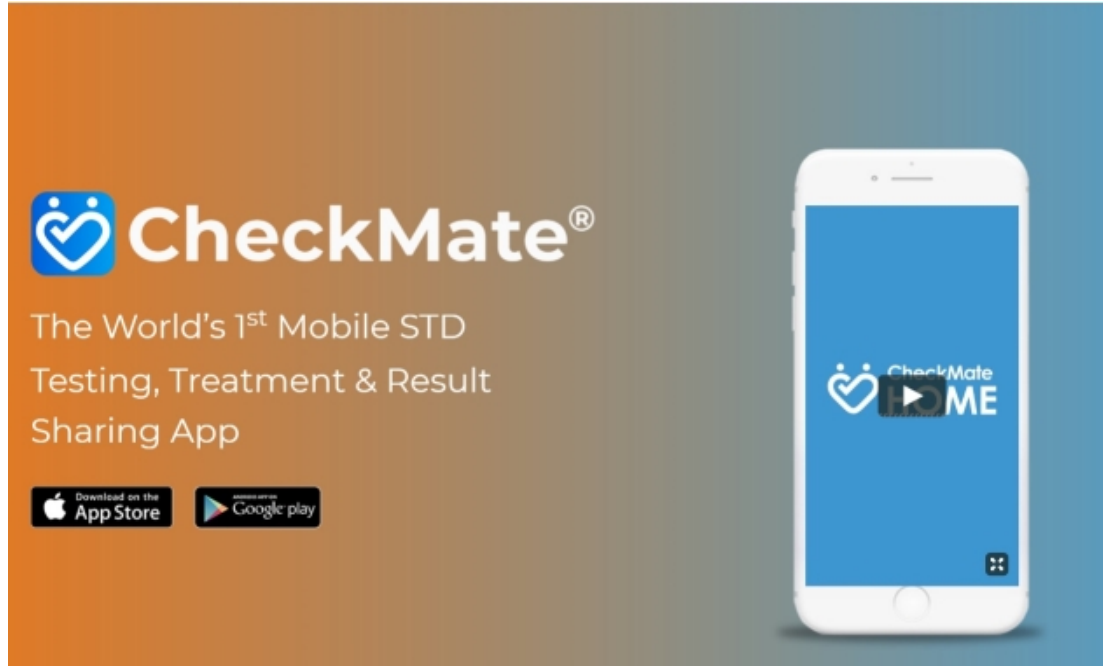
## Providers

- **STI screening and timely treatment standard part of practice, especially for pregnant women and MSM**
  - **Integrate STI screening and treatment into prenatal care in addition to HIV prevention and PrEP when necessary**

## Everyone

- **Talk openly about sexual health, use condoms, get tested regularly (Q3-12 months, depending on risk factors)**

# New App Lets Consumers Order STI Tests and Get Treatment via Telemedicine



<https://www.empr.com/news/sexually-transmitted-disease-app-home-testing-telemedicine-prescription/article/776663/>. Accessed September 12, 2018.



# A Community Pharmacy Perspective

- **Opportunities for involvement**
  - Sexual health services
  - Community-wide coalitions
  - Public health initiatives

# How can community pharmacists make a difference?

Condom and medication distribution

Local data collection

Counseling and referral

Collaborative practice: testing & prescribing

Community partnerships

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# Komoto Healthcare, 1981



# Demographics: Delano, CA

Parameter	Delano	United States
Population size, n	55,659	325,719,178
Hispanic or Latino	72.2%	17.3%
Median household income	\$36,949	\$55,322
Below poverty level	29.0%	15.1%
High school graduate or higher	54.5%	87.0%



# Komoto Healthcare, 2018

Condom  
and  
medication  
distribution



Komoto Pharmacy



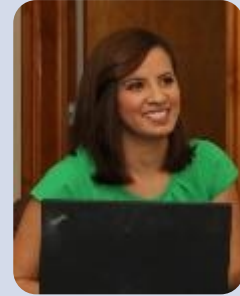
Komoto Medical  
Pharmacy



Integrated Care Systems



Synergy Pharmacy  
Solutions



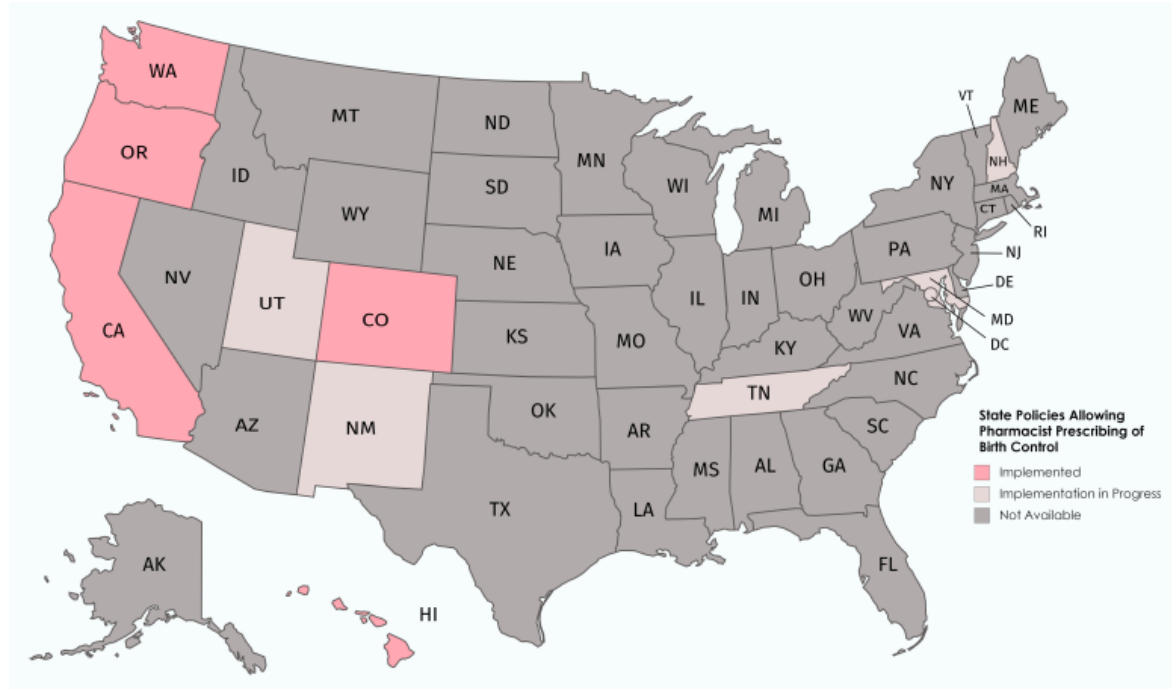
Komoto  
Family  
Foundation

# Risk behaviors and perceptions

- **At a local community college, 63% rarely or never used a condom during vaginal intercourse during last 30 days (n=676)**
- **Community pharmacy survey (n=97)**
  - 44% had first intercourse < age 17
  - At first intercourse, 53% used no method of contraception
  - 55% had first pregnancy < age 20
  - 60% had at least one unplanned pregnancy
  - 47% of those who do not desire pregnancy used contraception inconsistently

Local data  
collection

# Contraceptive Prescribing: an opportunity to discuss STI prevention





# STI Counseling and Referral

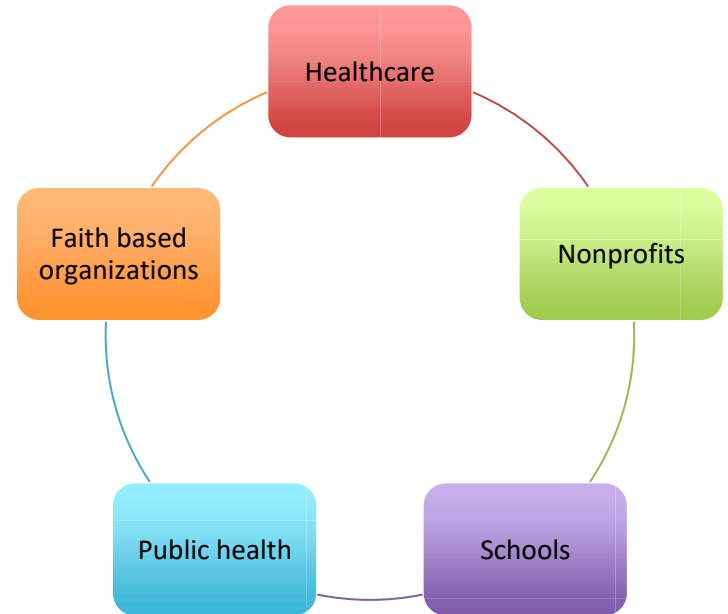
- **Referral to local clinics**
  - **Primary care/gynecologists**
  - **Publicly funded**
    - **Planned Parenthood**
    - **Federally Qualified Health Clinics**
    - **Public Health Departments**
- **Counseling on risk reduction**
  - **Condom use**
  - **Testing with each new partner**
- **Cultural humility**
  - **Avoid making assumptions (monogamy, gender identify, sexual orientation, etc)**
  - **Reserve judgments**

# Social Determinants of Health



# Community Partnerships

- **Kern County STI Action Team**
  - Phase 1: Know your risk
  - Phase 2: Parents, talk to kids.
    - “Be the first voice”
  - Phase 3: Get tested
- **Delano Sexual Health Task Force**
  - Farmworker outreach
  - Peer health educators



# Local STI prevalence

**KNOW**  
*Your*  
**RISK**

**1 NEW STD**  
is reported in KERN County  
**EVERY HOUR**

kernpublichealth.com

**KNOW**  
*Your*  
**RISK**

**1 in 4**  
sexually active  
Teen girls has an **STD**

**KNOW**  
*Your*  
**RISK**

kernpublichealth.com

**KNOW**  
*Your*  
**RISK**

# Re-imagining the “Sexual Health” Aisle

Condoms under lock and key at Bakersfield stores

by Emma Cox, Eyewitness News | Wednesday, May 9th 2018



**Accessibility**



**Inclusivity:** “I am a gay man.  
The sex I have is non-reproductive by definition.”  
—Jamie Lawson

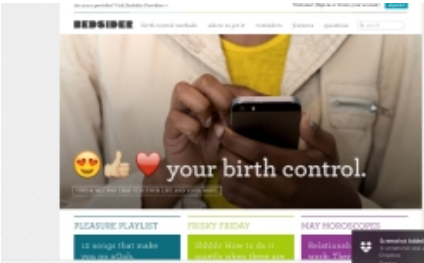


**Variety**

# Patient-friendly Resources



[www.teensource.org](http://www.teensource.org)



[www.bedsider.org](http://www.bedsider.org)



[www.talkwithyourkids.org](http://www.talkwithyourkids.org)

The Family Library provides accurate, up-to-date, and honest information about sexual health.



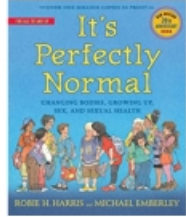
[View larger](#)

For age 4 and up



[View larger](#)

For age 7 and up



[View larger](#)

For age 10 and up

Children's books: It's NOT the Stork, It's So Amazing, It's Perfectly Normal

# KEY TAKEAWAYS

## 1) THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS

*Community pharmacists can reduce the burden of STIs through various means, including condom and medication distribution, counseling and referral for STI testing and treatment, local data collection, community partnerships, and collaborative practice arrangements.*

## 2) OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE PATIENTS IN STI CONVERSATIONS

*Pharmacists can counsel patients on STI prevention, testing, and treatment through various encounters, including medication dispensing and contraception prescribing.*

## 3) COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

*Pharmacists can participate in community-wide coalitions as part of a cross-functional collaboration to prevent and reduce the incidence of STIs.*

## Patient Case Revisited

**CJ is a 25 year old bisexual black male living with HIV who presents to clinic for a 6 month follow up appointment. He reports several casual sex partners for oral, receptive, and insertive anal sex since last visit. States he/his partners wear condoms “when we can remember.” He tolerates his medication well, reports 100% adherence, and has no complaints today.**

**Allergies: NKDA**

**Current medications:**

**Bictegravir/emtricitabine/tenofovir alafenamide 50/200/25 mg po daily**



# Patient Case Revisited

## Pertinent PMH:

HIV – diagnosed 1/2017; risk factor = bisexual; CD4 nadir = 532 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>

Chlamydia – 1/2017, treated

Gonorrhea – 1/2017, treated

Syphilis – 1/2017 (RPR 1:256), treated; most recent RPR = 1:2 on 4/2018

## Pertinent Labs from 11/20/18 (2 weeks prior to appointment date):

HIV-RNA = <20 copies/mL      CD4/% = 711/35 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>      RPR = 1:64

GC/Chlam (rectal, throat, oral) = POS/POS; neg/neg; POS/neg

Comprehensive metabolic panel = WNL

# Post-Test Question 1

**Based on CJ's labs from 11/2018, what treatments, if any, are recommended?**

- A. Amoxicillin + benzathine penicillin G + doxycycline**
- B. Azithromycin + benzathine penicillin G + ceftriaxone**
- C. Azithromycin + ceftriaxone**
- D. Benzathine penicillin G + ceftriaxone**
- E. None, as he was treated previously 1/2017**

## Assessment/Plan:

- Early non-primary, non-secondary syphilis** – RPR 1:64 (11/2018) vs. 1:2 (4/2018).  
Pt is asymptomatic, no chancre, no rash;  $\geq 2$  fold positive change in RPR
  - Plan = benzathine penicillin G 2.4 million units IM x 1 dose.
  - F/up RPR ~6-12 months; minimal acceptable response, RPR =  $\leq 1:16$
- Gonorrhea** – positive rectal and oral. Pt asymptomatic.
  - Plan = ceftriaxone 250 mg IM x 1 dose PLUS azithromycin 1 gm PO x 1 dose.
  - F/up test unnecessary unless symptoms present.
- Chlamydia** – positive rectal on lab. Pt asymptomatic.
  - Plan = azithromycin 1 gm PO x 1 dose.
  - F/up test of cure ~3 months.
- HIV** – undetectable with good immunologic function
  - Plan = continue present management with BIC/FTC/TAF PO daily
  - F/up HIV labs ~6 months
- Sexual Health**
  - Condoms!! Encourage partner(s) get tested/treated.

## Post-Test Question 2

**Due to increased resistance concerns, which is the most appropriate treatment for gonococcal infections based on the most recent STI guidelines?**

- A. Amoxicillin + cefixime**
- B. Azithromycin**
- C. Azithromycin + ceftriaxone**
- D. Cefixime**
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