

# Sexually Transmitted and Bloodborne Infections (STBBI) in Manitoba



**OUTBREAKS** of Syphilis, Gonorrhea, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C are occurring in Manitoba.

In 2016, new cases of HIV were identified in all regional health authorities.

## MAIN MESSAGES



**1** Do you know the STBBI status of the patient in front of you? If not, offer testing.



**2** If testing for one STBBI, test for all. (HIV, Syphilis, Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Hepatitis B and if indicated, Hepatitis C too!)



**3** All of the STBBIs have asymptomatic phases! Don't wait for symptoms to test.

## SYPHILIS

### WHAT'S HAPPENING?

In 2017, infectious syphilis case counts were up more than

**400%**  
compared to 2013.

A province-wide

**OUTBREAK**

was declared in 2015.

Rates remain high in males.

In females, the rates have been steadily increasing.

In 2017: Approximately four of every 10 new infectious syphilis cases were in women.



Congenital cases have been reported.

### WHAT TO DO?

- When **DIAGNOSING**, look for chancres on the genitals, anus and mouth. In addition to serology, send a Dacron-tipped, Rayon-tipped, and/or flocked swab of the genital or extra-genital lesions to Cadham Provincial Laboratory (CPL) in viral transport medium for Syphilis PCR using a CPL General Requisition form.
- The preferred **TREATMENT** is **BICILLIN LA**. It can be obtained free of charge through public health.
- Be aware of symptoms of secondary and tertiary syphilis as well as **COMPLICATIONS** such as ocular and neurosyphilis.
- Call your local Public Health team for help with staging.
- **SEXUAL CONTACTS** of known syphilis cases should be treated immediately for syphilis without waiting for test results.

**Due to primarily heterosexual outbreaks in the north:**



**TEST** pregnant patients who reside in the Northern Health Region of Manitoba and the Kivalliq region of Nunavut at: first prenatal visit, at 28-32 weeks and again upon delivery.

Regardless of location of residence, test pregnant patients more frequently for syphilis if risk for infection is identified.



## GONORRHEA

### WHAT'S HAPPENING?

In 2017, there were

**3,343**  
cases of Gonorrhea reported in Manitoba:

A **274%** increase since 2013.

Both males and females are affected but over the last five years, rates have been consistently higher in females.

### WHAT TO DO?

#### TESTING TIPS

1. In addition to testing genitals through urine or swabs, also consider taking throat and anal swabs using a red or black topped culture tube.
2. When Gonorrhea is suspected, add a culture to your NAAT test.

**TREAT** with a **Cephalosporin** and **Azithromycin**.

**AVOID** monotherapy with Azithromycin. If there is no other option available then ensure test of cure is done.

Please refer to the provincial protocol for a complete list of situations where test of cure is important.



## HIV

### WHAT'S HAPPENING?



The number of new HIV cases per year in Manitoba increased by **25%** between 2014 and 2016.

Among transmission events occurring in Manitoba, the most commonly reported risk activity is **HETEROSEXUAL SEX**.



An estimated **21%** of Canadians who have HIV do not know it.

### WHAT TO DO?

It is no longer expected that providers complete more thorough pre-test counselling than for any other clinical test.

If you don't know the HIV status of the patient in front of you, **offer testing**. Risk based screening is not recommended.



The Manitoba HIV Program has endorsed the **BC testing guidelines** which include recommended testing frequency.

## HEPATITIS B AND HEPATITIS C

### WHAT'S HAPPENING?

#### A HEPATITIS B OUTBREAK is occurring in the province.

The majority of the outbreak cases:

- reside in Winnipeg
- are male
- have a history of injection drug use and/or incarceration



#### A number of HEPATITIS C OUTBREAKS are also occurring within the province.

Injection drug use and sharing drug paraphernalia are known risk factors associated with these outbreaks.

### WHAT TO DO?

#### HEPATITIS B

Routine STBBI screening:

- Check eChart for previous Hepatitis B testing (HBsAg and HBsAb) and Hepatitis B vaccine history.
- If not fully immunized (minimum three doses by history or eChart) or not immune (HBsAb negative or no result available):
  - Test for HBsAg and HBsAb (both are part of the STI panel).
  - Provide one dose of Hepatitis B vaccine in the same visit, if they meet Manitoba Health vaccine eligibility criteria. Do not wait for lab results.

#### HEPATITIS C

**TESTING:** Remember that on the Cadham Lab Requisition Form you must **select HCV Ab**, in addition to the STI panel, to test for all STBBIs.

**TREATMENT** for Hepatitis C is now covered in the Pharmacare Formulary for all stages of fibrosis.

LAB REQ	
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#### HEPATITIS B & HEPATITIS C

Refer patients to the Viral Hepatitis Investigation Unit (VHIU).  
Phone: 204-787-3630

For post exposure prophylaxis refer to the Integrated Post-exposure Protocol for HIV, HBV and HCV:

[www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/index.html](http://www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/index.html)

For more information on how to manage any of these infections, health care provider resources are available at:

[www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/sti/index.html](http://www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/sti/index.html)

## RESOURCES

Provincial STBBI information: [www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/sti/index.html](http://www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/sti/index.html)

Public Health Offices: [www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/offices](http://www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/offices)

Cadham Laboratory Guide to Services: [www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cpl/docs/guide.pdf](http://www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/cpl/docs/guide.pdf)

Information on where Harm Reduction Supplies can be accessed: [www.streetconnections.ca/service\\_map.php](http://www.streetconnections.ca/service_map.php)

BC HIV Testing Guidelines: [www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/hiv-testing-guidelines-bc.pdf](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/hiv-testing-guidelines-bc.pdf)

Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections: [www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/infectious-diseases/sexual-health-sexually-transmitted-infections/canadian-guidelines/sexually-transmitted-infections.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/infectious-diseases/sexual-health-sexually-transmitted-infections/canadian-guidelines/sexually-transmitted-infections.html)