



Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

SALLY DRESLIN, M.S., R.N.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

Dear Provider,

We are pleased to provide you with a set of measures designed to assess the quality of STI care and treatment. These measures were developed in partnership with the STI Quality of Care Committee, composed of both clinicians and consumers, under the leadership of Drs. Marguerite Urban and Michael Augenbraun. Using a formal Delphi survey methodology, the Committee prioritized topics for measures which were then translated into indicators for use by clinical programs and plans.

These measures represent a core set of indicators that span the spectrum of care from comprehensive sexual history taking to partner treatment of STIs. Starting from the premise that most indicators addressing STIs focus on screening, the Committee specifically included measures that address treatment and the continuum of sexual health care extending to partner management. Moreover, the Committee recognized that sexual history taking remains a major gap in priority comprehensive care and champions the integration of sexual health into primary care.

You will find attached two versions of the indicators, one set organized by specific STIs (syphilis, Chlamydia, gonorrhea, HIV), and the other by patient groups to which they apply (all, MSM, transgender patients, and women/pregnant women). We offer both to allow providers to easily locate specific measures according to need.

Although there are no requirements regarding the use of these indicators, we hope that you will apply them in your practices and programs as we strive to combat growing rates of STIs in New York State and thwart antimicrobial resistance resulting from inappropriate antibiotic prescribing, especially for gonorrheal infection. We encourage you to use these measures to both assess the quality of sexual health care in your program and to identify areas for improvement based on your results, with the ultimate goal of reversing the rise of STI transmissions and recognizing the importance of sexual health as part of primary care.

Through partnership between clinicians and public health officials, we can achieve our desired results to improve sexual health, improve the quality of STI care, and reduce the burden of sexually transmitted diseases. Thank you for your partnership with this public health effort.

Bruce D. Agins, MD, MPH
Medical Director
NYSDOH AIDS Institute