

## Assessment of the Sexually Transmitted Infection Testing at LVHN in Symptomatic Patients Who Present to the Emergency Department or Ambulatory Setting

Sarah Vetesi

Marcelo Gareca MD

*Lehigh Valley Health Network, Marcelo.Gareca@lvhn.org*

Amy Slenker MD

*Lehigh Valley Health Network, amy\_k.slenker@lvhn.org*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlyworks.lvhn.org/research-scholars-posters>



Part of the [Medicine and Health Sciences Commons](#)

## Let us know how access to this document benefits you

---

### Published In/Presented At

Vetesi, S., Gareca, M., & Slenker, A. (2020, August). Assessment of the Sexually Transmitted Infection Testing at LVHN in Symptomatic Patients Who Present to the Emergency Department or Ambulatory Setting. Poster Presented at: LVHN Research Scholar Program Poster Session, Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, PA.

This Poster is brought to you for free and open access by LVHN Scholarly Works. It has been accepted for inclusion in LVHN Scholarly Works by an authorized administrator. For more information, please contact [LibraryServices@lvhn.org](mailto:LibraryServices@lvhn.org).



# Assessment of the Sexually Transmitted Infection Testing at LVHN in Symptomatic Patients Who Present to the Emergency Department or Ambulatory Setting

Sarah Vetesi, Marcelo Gareca, MD, Amy Slenker, MD, Division of Infectious Diseases

Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, Pennsylvania

## INTRODUCTION

- Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are infections transmitted through sexual activity
- Common STIs include chlamydia, gonorrhea, trichomoniasis, herpes simplex virus (HSV), syphilis, and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)
- It is important to diagnose and treat STIs to prevent sequelae of disease and transmission to future partners
- This project aim is to review STI-related encounters for appropriate testing and treatment to ensure a high quality of care at LVHN

## METHODS & OBJECTIVES

Review 468 patient visits from 1/1/19 to 12/31/19 identified by a grouper available in Epic for ICD-10 billing codes matching an STI-related condition

Exclude patients who were already diagnosed, treated, or fall outside age/symptom guidelines; 231 ED patients and 40 ambulatory visits were included

Review the encounter for appropriateness (i.e. sexual history taken, appropriate testing and treatment) according to CDC Guidelines

Examples of symptoms and signs and the appropriate STI tests that should be conducted

Work-up may have additionally included non-STI tests

Female presents with abnormal vaginal discharge

Test for chlamydia, gonorrhea, and trichomoniasis

Male with swelling of the testicles and <35 years or penile discharge at any age

Test for chlamydia and gonorrhea

Patient presents with sores/rashes around genitals, lips, and/or anus

Test for syphilis and HSV (if ulcerative)

## RESULTS

- 57.1% of patients had a sexual history taken in the ED versus 77.5% in the ambulatory setting
- In the ED, the most commonly missed testing was for trichomoniasis versus HIV testing in the ambulatory setting
- ED patients spent an average of 183 minutes at the hospital versus 43 minutes in the ambulatory setting
- In the ED, 33% of patients did not have a primary care provider versus 5% in the ambulatory setting
- In the ED, 10.4% of patients did not have insurance versus 12.5% in the ambulatory setting



## CONCLUSIONS

- There is an opportunity for improved STI testing for patients who present with symptoms at LVHN to both the ED and ambulatory setting
- Sexual histories were not discussed consistently during the visit and often varied in detail
- Patient spent, on average, 140 extra minutes in the ED versus the ambulatory setting
- More patients seen in the ED did not have a PCP as compared to ambulatory patients
- More patients seen in the ambulatory setting did not have insurance as compared to patients in the ED

## FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Future work should be devoted to educating clinicians about taking a thorough sexual history and appropriate testing for STIs
- Consider constructing a computer notification system to alert providers regarding incomplete STI testing
- The implementation of a Sexual Health Center would offer comprehensive and timely access for any patient regardless of insurance or ability to pay
- Establish an online platform for patients to utilize in the assessment and treatment of their STI-related symptoms to enhance convenience and encourage patients to seek care when indicated

### References

- Clinical Prevention Guidance - 2015 STD Treatment Guidelines. 13 Apr. 2020, <https://www.cdc.gov/std/tg2015/clinical.htm>.
- Barrow, Roxanne Y. "Recommendations for Providing Quality Sexually Transmitted Diseases Clinical Services, 2020." *MMWR. Recommendations and Reports*, vol. 68, 2020. [www.cdc.gov, doi:10.15585/mmwr.rr6805a1](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/rr6805a1).

Special Thank You to the Division of Infectious Diseases and the Dorothy Rider Pool Healthcare Trust