



MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN (MSM) & SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STIs) PROTOCOL

PrEP

DIAGNOSING & TREATING BACTERIAL STIs IN MSM

SYNDROME	SIGNS/SYMPTOMS	IMMEDIATE NEXT STEPS
Urethritis	Discharge or dysuria	Test and empirically treat for GC/CT. Test for syphilis and HIV. Consider HSV testing and treatment of suspicious ulcerative lesions.
Proctitis	Ulcer, discharge or pain	Same steps as above.
Early syphilis dermatologic findings	Possible chancre or rash of secondary syphilis	Test and empirically treat for syphilis. Screen for GC/CT and HIV/acute HIV. Consider HSV testing/treatment of suspicious ulcerative lesions.

Anal gonorrhea (GC), anal Chlamydia (CT) and syphilis may facilitate HIV transmission.

Many anogenital STIs are asymptomatic. Urine/urethral screening alone misses over half of GC and CT cases in asymptomatic MSM and transgender people.

Empiric treatment is often indicated based on symptoms, and the most commonly associated pathogens.

USE A 3-SITE SCREENING STRATEGY

SITE	TEST FOR	SEXUAL EXPOSURE TYPE	NOTES
Throat	GC Only	Oral receptive	NAAT (Nucleic Acid Amplification Test)—self-collection if patient prefers.
Anorectal	GC/CT	Anal receptive (bottom)	NAAT—self-collection if patient prefers; still conduct physical exam.
Urine or urethral	GC/CT	Oral/anal insertive (top)	NAAT—first-catch urine preferred.
Serology	Syphilis	Any	Treponemal IgG, RPR, Darkfield microscopy of anogenital lesions.

Screening recommended every 3–6 months for MSM with multiple or anonymous sex partners or illicit drug use.

EXPEDITED BACTERIAL STI TREATMENT REGIMENS FOR MSM

SYNDROME	FIRST-LINE EMPIRIC THERAPY
Urethritis	Empiric tx for GC and CT Ceftriaxone 250 mg IM PLUS Azithromycin 1g PO.
Proctitis	Empiric tx for GC and CT Ceftriaxone 250 mg IM PLUS Doxycycline 100 mg PO BID x 7 days—extend DOX 100 mg BID to 21 days for confirmed rectal CT or high clinical suspicion of lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV).
Chancre or disseminated rash	Empiric tx for primary (chancre) or secondary (rash) syphilis. Single dose Benzathine penicillin G 2.4 million units.

