

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Chlamydia?

Chlamydia is a very small parasitic bacterium that can infect the throat, urethra or anal canal. Chlamydia may occur without symptoms and requires antibiotic treatment. Untreated it can cause scarring with obstruction of the urethra and/or fallopian tubes.

What is Genital Herpes?

Genital herpes is a disease characterized by blisters in the genital area, caused by a variety of the herpes simplex virus. Herpes is easily transmittable to others.

What are Genital Warts?

Genital warts are small growths occurring in the anal or genital areas that are caused by a virus (HPV) that is spread primarily by sexual contact.

What is Gonorrhea?

Gonorrhea is a venereal disease involving inflammatory discharge from the urethra or vagina. It can also affect the throat or anal canal. Gonorrhea may occur without any symptoms. Left untreated, gonorrhea can become a serious disease infecting joints or heart valves.

What is HPV?

HPV is a group of more than 100 related viruses. HPV is named for the warts (papillomas) some types of HPV can cause. HPV infections can lead to cancer of the mouth or throat and anus/rectum in both men and women. Men can also get penile HPV cancer. Eisenhower is involved in a national study for patients who qualify – check with your provider for details.

What is PEP?

Post Exposure Prophylaxis or PEP involves taking antiretroviral medicines very soon after a possible exposure to HIV to prevent becoming infected with HIV. PEP should be started as quickly as possible to be effective and always within 72 hours (three days) after potential exposure to HIV. PEP requires a follow-up appointment after treatment has been completed.

What is PrEP?

Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis or PrEP provides a daily pill for prevention of HIV for people who do not have HIV but who are at substantial risk of acquiring the infection. The pill (Truvada®) contains two medicines (tenofovir and emtricitabine). Regular monitoring presents you with the opportunity to check for other sexually transmitted issues.

What is Syphilis?

Syphilis is a chronic bacterial disease that is contracted chiefly by infection during sexual intercourse. Syphilis often starts with a lesion that is not painful and/or a rash. Syphilis can lead to serious complications such as blindness. Anyone sexually active should have an annual screening for syphilis.