

Infectious Diseases

Sexual Health and Sexually Transmitted Infections Prevention And Control Protocol

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Overview of Presentation

- **Purpose**
- **Requirements Listed in Standard**
- **Protocol Highlights**
- **Cross References**
- **Supporting Documentation**
- **Questions & Answers**
- **Acknowledgements**
- **Contact Information**

Purpose

- **This Protocol provides direction to boards of health on the implementation of the program to prevent and control sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including blood borne infections (BBIs) and to promote healthy sexuality for priority populations, cases and contacts.**
- **It also provides direction to boards of health regarding:**
 - **Screening diagnosis, treatment, and counselling of cases and contacts;**
 - **Screening, diagnosis, treatment, and counselling for individuals sharing drug-using equipment; and**
 - **Providing means of reducing the risk of transmission.**
- **HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C are implied throughout this Protocol in all sections referring to STIs/BBIs.**

Requirements Listed in Standard

Sexual Health, Sexually Transmitted Infections, and Blood-borne Infections (including HIV) Standard

Requirements:

- **Requirement #1:** The board of health shall report data elements on sexually transmitted infections and blood-borne infections in accordance with the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* and the *Sexual Health and Sexually Transmitted Infections Prevention and Control Protocol, 2008* (or as current).
- **Requirement #2:** The board of health shall conduct surveillance of:
 - Sexually transmitted infections;
 - Blood-borne infections;
 - Reproductive outcomes;
 - Risk behaviours; and
 - Distribution of harm reduction materials/equipmentin accordance with the *Population Health Assessment and Surveillance Protocol, 2008* (or as current) and the *Sexual Health and Sexually Transmitted Infections Prevention and Control Protocol, 2008* (or as current).

Requirements Listed in Standard

- **Requirement #8:** The board of health shall ensure that the medical officer of health or designate receives reports of sexually transmitted infections and blood-borne infections and responds in accordance with the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* and the *Sexual Health and Sexually Transmitted Infections Prevention and Control Protocol, 2008* (or as current).
- **Requirement #9:** The board of health shall provide or ensure access to provincially funded drugs for the treatment of sexually transmitted infections, at no cost to clients, in accordance with the *Sexual Health and Sexually Transmitted Infections Prevention and Control Protocol, 2008* (or as current).

Protocol Highlights

- 1. Data collection, reporting and information transfer**
 - Lab confirmed case, contact information
- 2. Detection and identification**
 - Screening list
- 3. Sexual health clinical services, STIs, and blood-borne infections preventive services**
 - Services for priority populations, harm reduction strategies
- 4. Notification**
- 5. Management**
 - Treatment and counselling, sexual abuse reporting
- 6. Data collection, reporting, and information transfer**
 - Interviewing the case, contact tracing, interviewing the contact, drug and vaccine supply distribution

Cross References

- **None**

Supporting Documentation

- **Sexual Health Clinical Services Manual (updated and scheduled for release 2009).**
- **Sexually Transmitted Infections Case Management and Contact Tracing Best Practices Recommendations, 2008 (scheduled for release January 2009).**

Questions & Answers

- **Q: Will there be a new Sexual Health Clinical Services Manual as the current version is six years old and some content requires updating?**

A: An updated Sexual Health Clinical Services Manual is scheduled for release early 2009.

- **Q: Will there be any best practices/guidance documents to assist needle exchange programs (NEPs)?**

A: Currently discussions are underway regarding the development of a guidance document/best practices for NEPs/harm reduction.

- **Any additional questions?**

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