



SCREENING FOR SYPHILIS INFECTION IN PREGNANCY CLINICAL SUMMARY OF U.S. PREVENTIVE SERVICES TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATION

Population	All Pregnant Women
Recommendation	Screen for syphilis infection. Grade: A

Screening Tests	<p>Nontreponemal tests commonly used for initial screening include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Venereal Disease Research Laboratory (VDRL) • Rapid Plasma Reagin (RPR) <p>Confirmatory tests include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fluorescent treponemal antibody absorbed (FTA-ABS) • Treponema pallidum particle agglutination (TPPA)
Timing of Screening	Test all pregnant women at the first prenatal visit.
Other Clinical Considerations	<p>Most organizations recommend testing high-risk women again during the third trimester and at delivery. Groups at increased risk include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uninsured women • women living in poverty • sex workers • illicit drug users • those diagnosed with other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) • other women living in communities with high syphilis morbidity. <p style="text-align: center;">Prevalence is higher in southern U.S. and in metropolitan areas and in Hispanic and African American populations.</p>
Interventions	<p>The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends treatment with parenteral benzathine penicillin G. Women with penicillin allergies should be desensitized and treated with penicillin. Consult the CDC for the most up-to-date recommendations: http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/</p>
Relevant USPSTF Recommendations	<p>Recommendations on screening for other STDs, and on counseling for STDs, can be found at www.preventiveservices.ahrq.gov.</p>

For a summary of the evidence systematically reviewed in making these recommendations, the full recommendation statement, and supporting documents please go to <http://www.preventiveservices.ahrq.gov>.

This document is a summary of the 2009 recommendation of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) on screening for syphilis infection in pregnant women. This summary is intended for use by primary care clinicians. This summary was first published in Annals of Internal Medicine in May 2009 (Ann Intern Med. 2009;150:707. <http://www.annals.org>). AHRQ Publication No. 09-05133-EF-2. Current as of May 2009.