



August 4, 2006

Dear Colleague,

We are pleased to announce publication today of *Sexually Transmitted Diseases Treatment Guidelines, 2006*,” in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) Recommendations and Reports*. These guidelines for the treatment of patients who have sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) were developed by CDC after consultation with a group of professionals knowledgeable in the field of STDs who met in Atlanta on April 19–21, 2005.

The *Guidelines* are based on newly available evidence and include:

- The latest information on the presentation, appropriate screening, and treatment of STDs among men who have sex with men;
- New evidence on the benefits of rescreening for chlamydia and gonorrhea;
- Recommendations for partner-delivered therapy for gonorrhea and chlamydia, if other strategies for reaching partners are not likely to succeed;
- New medications and treatment regimens to treat chlamydia and trichomoniasis and decrease herpes simplex virus 2 (HSV2) transmission; and
- Information on the new HPV vaccine.

Over 18 million cases of STDs occur in the U.S. each year, with a disproportionate share among young people and racial and ethnic minority populations. The estimated annual direct medical costs of treating STDs and their sequelae are \$13 billion. These 2006 *Guidelines*, which update the 2002 *Guidelines*, are an important tool to address this major public health challenge. CDC revises the *Guidelines* periodically, approximately every three to four years, using a scientific, evidence-based process that includes CDC and external expert review of current scientific literature.

To obtain a copy of the guidelines, please go to our Web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/> or call CDC NPIN (National Prevention Information Network) at 800-458-5231 (M-F 9am-8pm ET).

Sincerely,

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