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**1-800-994-9662**

**TDD: 1-888-220-5446**

# Tests for Reproductive Health

## PRINT-AND-GO GUIDE

This chart lists some common reproductive health tests that a woman might need, including tests for sexually transmitted infections (STIs). STIs are very common. They spread easily and are very harmful to women if not treated. Untreated STIs can cause cancer, pelvic inflammatory disease, infertility, and pregnancy problems. Having an STI also puts you at higher risk of getting HIV. But STIs often have only mild or no symptoms. That is why testing for STIs is so important.

Bring this chart to your next checkup and go over it with your doctor. Your doctor will ask you questions about your sexual history. This information might seem too personal to share. But your doctor needs this information to know which tests you might need and how often. Use this form to mark the tests you need. If you have vaginal itching or unusual discharge, sores or rash, pain when urinating or during sex, or other symptoms of a reproductive health problem, don't wait until your yearly checkup to see your doctor. Call to schedule a visit right away.

Test	How It Is Done	What It Looks For	Do I Need It and How Often?
<b>Bacterial vaginosis test</b>	A swab is used to collect a fluid sample from the vagina, which is looked at with a microscope and/or sent to a lab.	An overgrowth of types of bacteria that are normally present in the vagina.	
<b>Chlamydia test</b>	A swab is used to collect a tissue or fluid sample from the infected area, which is sent to a lab for testing. Or a urine sample is collected and tested (see urinalysis).	Active infection with the chlamydia bacteria.	
<b>Gonorrhea test</b>	A swab is used to collect a tissue or fluid sample from the infected area, which is sent to a lab for testing. Or a urine sample is collected and tested (see urinalysis).	Active infection with the gonorrhea bacteria.	
<b>HIV test</b>	A sample of blood is drawn from a vein or with a finger stick and sent to lab for testing or tested on the spot (rapid test). Tests using oral fluid (not saliva) or urine also are available.	Presence of HIV antibodies (substances the body makes to fight HIV infection). A positive result must be confirmed with a follow-up test, often using the same sample.	
<b>HPV DNA test</b>	A swab is used to collect cell samples from the cervical area, which is sent to a lab for testing.	Infection with the types of human papillomavirus (HPV) that can cause cervical cancer.	



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<b>HSV (genital herpes) test</b>	A sample of blood is drawn from a vein and sent to a lab for testing. Or, if herpes sores are present, fluid from the sore can be collected and sent to a lab for testing.	The blood test looks for the presence of herpes antibodies (substances the body makes to fight herpes infection), which may indicate exposure to the herpes virus. The fluid sample test looks for active infection with the herpes virus.	
<b>Pap test (Pap smear)</b>	A swab is used to collect a tissue sample from the cervical area, which is sent to a lab for testing.	Abnormal cells that could be cancer or that could become cancer and signs of infection.	
<b>Syphilis test</b>	A blood sample is drawn from a vein and sent to a lab for testing. Or, if a syphilis sore is present, fluid from the sore can be collected and looked at with a special type of microscope.	The blood test looks for the presence of syphilis antibodies (substances the body makes to fight syphilis infection). A positive result must be confirmed with a follow-up test, often using the same sample. The fluid sample test looks for active infection with syphilis bacteria.	
<b>Urinalysis and urine culture</b>	A clean-catch urine sample is collected in a cup. Clean-catch means the genital area has been cleaned, and a small amount of urine was passed before it was collected in the cup. The sample might be looked at with a microscope and/or sent to a lab for testing.	Urinalysis looks for signs of infection, including urinary tract infection. The urine culture confirms it.	
<b>Vaginal yeast infection test</b>	A swab is used to collect a fluid sample from the vagina, which is looked at with a microscope and/or sent to a lab.	An overgrowth of fungus, such as candida, which is normally present in the vagina.	

Often, several tests can be done during a single checkup, and some tests can be done using a single sample. But don't assume that you have been tested for STIs or other health problems just because you had a pelvic exam or Pap test. A Pap test does not test for STIs. To be sure all your reproductive health care needs are met, you must speak up and ask your doctor which tests you need and how often.

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