

Chlamydia

What You Need to Know

What is Chlamydia?

Chlamydia is an infection you get in your vagina, penis, anus or throat. At first you may not feel sick, but later it can cause serious problems.

The signs of chlamydia can be very mild at first. Most people have no signs or symptoms.

You may have some of these signs:

- Abnormal discharge from your penis or vagina
- Pain or burning when you urinate
- Pain during sex
- Sore throat
- If you are a woman, bleeding between periods or during sex

How did I get it?

You got chlamydia by having sex with someone who had it. Most people who have chlamydia don't know they have it. You can't tell by looking at someone if they have chlamydia. The only way to know you have this infection is to be tested by a health care provider.

What should I do?

Get treated.

Your Family PACT provider will give you medicine that will cure the infection.

If you think you may be pregnant, tell your provider before you start your treatment.

What else do I need to know?

Follow all of your Family PACT provider's instructions.

- Both you and your sexual partner(s) must get treated. Ask your Family PACT provider how you can get your partner treated.
- Do not have sex for 7 days.
- Do not have sex until you and your partner(s) are treated.
- If you vomit the medicine or get a body rash, **call your clinic right away.**
- **If you have problems breathing, call 911.**

Return to the clinic.

- Your Family PACT provider will ask you to come back to the clinic in 3 months for another chlamydia test. Your provider may also want to test you for other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). You can have more than one STD at a time.

Why should I get treated?

Chlamydia is a serious disease.

- If you don't get treated, you can spread it to other sexual partners.
- If you are pregnant, chlamydia could be passed to your baby at birth. It can harm your baby's eyes and lungs.

If you don't get treated, you may:

- Have pain and swelling in your penis, vagina or anus.
- Be unable to have children later on.
- Have a pregnancy in your tubes.

Antibiotics will cure chlamydia and help prevent these problems. You must take all the pills and get your partner treated.

Protect yourself!

- **Tell your partner(s) to get checked for chlamydia.** If your partner isn't treated, you can get infected again.
- **Do not have sex with anyone** until you and your partner(s) are cured.
- **Go back to see your Family PACT provider** for another visit in 3 months.
- **Always use a male or female condom when you have sex.** Your Family PACT provider can give you condoms and explain how to use them.
- **Ask your Family PACT provider about getting an HIV test.**
- **Ask your provider where you can get vaccines** that help protect against Hepatitis B and HPV infections.

Resources

To learn more about chlamydia, call the CDC toll-free hotline at 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636).

For information about the Family PACT program and providers near you, call 1-800-942-1054 or visit www.familypact.org.