

Collaborating to Modify State Infertility Prevention Project Screening Criteria in Times of Lesser Resources

Colleen Bornmueller₁, Sandra Jirsa₂, Karen Thompson₃

1) Family Planning Council of Iowa, Des Moines, IA, 2) University of Iowa Hygienic Laboratory, Iowa City, IA, 3) Iowa Department of Public Health, Des Moines, IA

Background: Because of repeated rescissions and funding cuts at both the state and federal levels, the number of specimens submitted to the state laboratory for the Iowa Infertility Prevention Project (IIPP) needed to be reduced. Stakeholder consideration also needed to be given regarding a moratorium established in 2008 on adding IIPP sites, the use of pooling of cervical specimens to save costs of processing, and the fact that 92% of positives are found in women 29 and under.

Method: In the first three months of 2009, the IIPP Committee met three times to review IIPP prevalence monitoring data to establish new IIPP screening criteria. The committee reviewed data by test result, gender, race, ethnicity, and age to determine the highest risk groups. Committee members agreed changes were needed, despite reservations about limiting testing in women. The committee then consulted other published studies, criteria from other states and regions, and conferred with CDC. The changes needed to be specific and equitable across all clinic types.

The data showed that regardless of clinic type and risk factors, the logical place to reduce testing was in women over 34. Women in this age group are not as likely to be at risk for infertility and the positive predictive value (PPV) of the test has to be taken into consideration.

Result: The new criteria went into effect May 1, 2009. IIPP provider clinics were given training on the new guidelines via conference call one month in advance. High-risk individuals under 35 are still able to be tested. IIPP collection kits can no longer be used to test women 35 and older. If testing is requested or deemed necessary, another laboratory source must be used. Women may be treated presumptively *with state treatment medications*, if they are a contact to an infected partner, or have been tested with another source and found positive. Men 35 and over that report as a contact to an infected partner are presumptively treated.

Providers were receptive and cooperative. The number of specimens submitted decreased by 14% in the next quarter. In 1st quarter 2009, 15,519 specimens were submitted, and in 2nd quarter, 13,221. The number of specimens in all individuals 35 and up decreased from 1,409 in 1st quarter to 662 in 2nd quarter, following the change and continued to decrease throughout the year. An overall decrease in testing of 20% was shown from 1st quarter to 4th quarter. The Chlamydia positivity rate remained constant statewide at around 8%. Rates by clinic type have also remained steady.

Conclusion: Through a collaborative process, the state IPP was able to adjust their screening criteria and reduce specimens, while maintaining a steady state-wide positivity rate.

Iowa Infertility Prevention Project Revised Screening Criteria 2009

Women

Preferred specimen collection for women in the Iowa Infertility Prevention Project (IIPP) is a cervical swab, except for those seeking a re-screen following a previous positive. In this case, use of a urine collection kit is permissible. However, use of a urine collection kit in an outreach location or clinic (for reasons other than routine rescreening) must have prior approval from the IIPP Coordinator.

All Clinic Types

Women ≤ 25 years of age:

- Screen all women ≤ 25 years of age annually
- Screen all women ≤ 25 prior to IUD insertion, as indicated
- At an exam within 12 months of a negative chlamydia/gonorrhea test, SCREEN ONLY if a woman has one or more of the following:
 - New or multiple partners in the last 90 days
 - Reported Symptoms
 - Observed clinical signs consistent with chlamydia/gonorrhea infection or PID
 - Contact to an STD

Women 26 to 34 years of age:

- Test all women 26 to 34 years of age that have one (or more) of the of the following:
 - New or multiple partners in the last 90 days
 - Reported symptoms
 - Observed clinical signs consistent with chlamydia/gonorrhea infection or PID
 - Contact to an STD
 - IUD insertion

Women 35 and older:

- IIPP collection kits cannot be used for women 35 years of age and older
- Women 35 and older *may be treated presumptively* if they present as a contact to an infected partner

Prenatal Clients

- Screen all at first visit, regardless of age
- Re-screen all women who tested positive at the 1st screen during the last trimester (must wait at least 3 weeks after completion of treatment.)

Re-Screen Clients

- Re-screen all women if they have tested positive for chlamydia in the last 3 to 4 months, regardless of age or type of clinic. (This is a check for new or re-infection, not a test of cure.)

Men

Specimen collection for men may be done with a urine collection kit or urethral swab.

All Clinic Types

Men ≤ 34 years of age:

- Test all men 34 and younger that have one or more of the following:
 - New or multiple partners in the last 90 days
 - Reported symptoms
 - Observed clinical signs consistent with chlamydia/gonorrhea infection
 - Contact to an STD

Men 35 and older:

- Test all symptomatic men
- Presumptively treat, but do not test using IIPP collection kits, asymptomatic men who present as a contact to an infected woman