



Reassure SelectHealth Patients Needing Screens and Tests This Fall About the Safety of In-Office Visits

SelectHealth from VNSNY CHOICE wants to remind you that, if your patients need in-person visits to complete tests, screenings, and vaccines this fall, they may need reassurance about safety protocols your office has taken in the wake of COVID-19.

Most SelectHealth members have been in social isolation for months and may need to be assured that an office visit is safe, especially those who are due to have the following procedures.

Viral Load Lab Tests

SelectHealth is recommending that our network physicians prioritize scheduling in-person visits with their **patients in need of viral load lab testing** this year.

Our Care Managers will be calling at-risk members to educate them on the importance of maintaining viral load suppression and will help them schedule visits with our providers for testing.

STI Screenings

In addition, it's important that our members be tested for **sexually transmitted infections (STIs)**. In particular, we are urging testing for the following SelectHealth patients:

- All patients living with HIV should be tested annually for chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis.
- All sexually active individuals assigned female at birth younger

than 25 years, as well as those with risk factors such as new or multiple sex partners, or a sex partner who has a sexually transmitted infection, should have an annual chlamydia and gonorrhea screening.

- All sexually active MSM should receive a screening for syphilis, chlamydia and gonorrhea (at the appropriate anatomic sites of exposure based on sexual practices) at least once a year.
- Pregnant persons should get syphilis, HIV, chlamydia and hepatitis B screenings. At-risk pregnant individuals should get a gonorrhea screening starting early in their pregnancy with repeat testing as needed.
- Anyone who has unprotected sex or shares injection drug equipment should get tested for HIV at least once a year and referred to mental health or substance use support services as needed.
- People living with HIV who have unprotected sex or share injection drug equipment should have their viral load closely monitored and be referred to mental health or substance use support services as needed.

If you have questions, please contact the VNSNY CHOICE Quality Management team at QualityManagement@vnsny.org.

Flu Vaccines Are More Urgent in 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic could be complicated by an overlapping flu epidemic this winter. **Please talk to your patients about getting their flu shots as soon as possible.**

CHOICE Provider Services

Please call toll free: 1-866-783-0222
TTY for the hearing impaired: 711
Monday – Friday, 9 am – 5 pm

Thank you for being part of the

VNSNY CHOICE Provider network!

We want to make this publication useful to you. Please let us know what you think! Write to us at CHOICEProviderNews@vnsny.org.

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