Options for Chlamydia Testing at Home

EXPLAIN TO PATIENTS THE RISKS OF CHLAMYDIA AND THE IMPORTANCE OF TREATMENT

At-home chlamydia testing offers patients a private, simple way to avoid barriers they may face when testing at a clinic.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) first granted approval for at-home chlamydia testing in 2023 for a combined chlamydia and gonorrhea test kit.[1] This introduced a level of convenience not previously available to patients.

Home test kits

Several companies offer chlamydia home test kits.

Everlywell[2]

This is a urine sample collection with results that indicate whether the patient has chlamydia and/or gonorrhea. If the results are positive or abnormal, the patient has access to an independent provider network and, if needed, treatment and prescriptions. The kit provides everything the patient needs to complete the test, including detailed directions and video, a customer service care team available for questions, digital and printable results, educational video sessions and pre-paid shipping both ways.

LetsGetChecked[3]

This test kit collects either a male urine sample or vaginal swab sample to test for chlamydia and gonorrhea. The kit provides everything the patient needs to complete the test, including detailed directions and access to the LetsGetChecked care team who can answer questions about the sample collection process. The patient collects their sample and ships the return kit on the same day as the sample collection. Results are provided within 2-5 days. Follow-up consultation is provided and treatment options are available.

Simple HealthKit[4]

This is a urine sample collection that tests for chlamydia, gonorrhea and trichomoniasis. The patient self-collects and mails it to the lab. Once the sample is received, the online results are typically available within 24-48 hours. If follow-up or additional testing is needed, medical providers at Simple Health guide the patient through the process.

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Benefits of in-home testing

Chlamydia in-home tests deliver meaningful benefits for patients, physicians and other providers.

How patients benefit

- **Convenience and flexibility:** Patients can complete the test at a time convenient for them without needing to schedule an appointment or travel.
- **Increased access:** Beneficial for patients in rural, remote or underserved areas with limited access to health care facilities.
- **Reduced stigma for sensitive tests:** Ideal for sensitive services or topics, where stigma may prevent patients from seeking in-person testing. The in-home screening tests offer patients greater privacy and discretion.
- **Promotes patient engagement and empowerment:** By allowing patients to collect the sample themselves, patients develop self-efficacy, empowering them to take a more active role in their health care. This can lead to increased engagement and adherence to screening recommendations.

How physicians and other providers benefit

- **Earlier patient intervention and treatment:** Increased testing through in-home screening can lead to earlier detection and treatment of chlamydia.
- **Broader population reach:** Enables clinics to engage patients who do not regularly attend in-person appointments or those who are hesitant to visit a clinic.
- **Reduced clinic burden:** In-home kits can reduce the burden on clinic staff and facilities, allowing physicians and other providers to focus on patients who need more intensive care. Enables completion of chlamydia screening while allowing physicians and other providers to focus on more complex care.
- **Follow-up opportunities:** Clinics can integrate screening results into health records, enabling better monitoring of patient populations and tailored follow-up care.

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HEDIS®[5] measure for Chlamydia Screening in Women (CHL)

Patient lab results from the at-home chlamydia screening test kits meet the NCQA HEDIS measure. The CHL HEDIS measure[6] reports the percentage of women 16-24 years of age who were identified as sexually active and who had at least one test for chlamydia as of December 31 of the measurement year. The HEDIS data is reported in two stratified age ranges — 16-20 years and 21-24 years, plus the total population.

Coding[7]

87110: any patient sample source
87320, 87810: immunoassay technique
87270: immunofluorescent
87491, 87490, 87492: nucleic acid technique

Best practices

- **Have a standing order in place** for CHL screening for patients on birth control and patients within HEDIS age range of 16-24 years of age.
- **For patients who would benefit** from an at-home chlamydia test, use an at-home chlamydia diagnostic test. Patient lab results are approved for HEDIS.
- **Yearly screening** for sexually active women ages 24 and younger, and in older women who are at an increased risk for infection.
- **Use pharmacy data, claims and encounters** to identify sexually active women.
- **Share the value** of a CHL screening with the patient and discuss screening guidelines.
- **Screen for both** chlamydia and gonorrhea in pregnant women < 25 years of age and older pregnant women at increased risk.

[1]U.S. Food & Drug Administration, FDA News Release, "FDA Grants Marketing Authorization of First Test for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea with at-home Sample Collection", November 15, 2023. fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-grants-marketing-authorization-first-test-chlamydia-and-gonorrhea-home-sample-collection.

[2]Everly Health Solutions everlyhealthsolutions.com/products/sexual-health-testing.

[3]LetsGetChecked letsgetchecked.com/simple-std-test.

[4]Simple HealthKit store.simplehealthkit.com/products/common-std-test.

[5]HEDIS: Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set NCQA. HEDIS MY 2025 Technical Specifications for Health Plans, Volume 2, Washington, D.C., 2024.

[6]HEDIS – Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set., Section B. Effectiveness of Care Prevention and Screening, pg. 72, Chlamydia Screening (CHL). ncqa.org/hedis.

[7]NCQA. HEDIS Measurement Year 2025 Volume 2: Technical Specifications for Health Plans, Washington, D.C, 2024. ncqa.org.

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