

On September 8, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a [Dear Colleague letter](#) addressing the recent national shortage of chlamydia (CT) and gonorrhea (GC) diagnostic test kits. This letter includes guidance on the prioritization of testing certain populations when diagnostic test kits are limited. CDC's Tier 2 guidance is outlined below and should be followed if a shortage of CT/GC diagnostic test kits is identified. When the availability of CT/GC diagnostic test kits returns to normal levels, screening according to the CDC's [Sexually Transmitted Diseases Treatment Guidelines, 2015](#) should be resumed.

Asymptomatic Individuals		
Population	Who to Prioritize	How to Test
Women (especially pregnant)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All women 25 years old and younger Women older than 25 who are at risk* Prioritize pregnant and non-pregnant women under 25 if test kits are severely limited 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vaginal swab is the preferred specimen Extragenital screening for women not recommended
Men who have sex with men (MSM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All MSM, regardless of age Consider extended screening intervals longer than 3 months for MSM on PrEP or higher risk MSM in order to ensure testing availability for the other populations above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maximize detection, prioritize rectal and pharyngeal CT/GC testing over urethral/urine-based testing for MSM who report exposure at these sites In severe shortage, prioritize rectal testing over pharyngeal testing, according to reported exposure
Men who have sex with only women (MSW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CT/GC screening is not recommended for asymptomatic MSW 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CT/GC screening is not recommended for asymptomatic MSW
Symptomatic Individuals		
Population	How to Test	How to Treat
Men with symptomatic urethritis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform a Gram stain (GS) or methylene blue (MB) stain on urethral specimens if clinic has capacity Collect and send a urethral GS or MB stain specimen to a laboratory if clinic does not have capacity If urine-based CT/GC NAAT kits are severely limited, reserve test kits for men with persistent urethritis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If GS/MB is available at the time of the patient visit, therapy can be targeted to limit antibiotic exposure If GS/MB is not available, treat for both GC and CT according to 2015 CDC STD Treatment Guidelines
Women with cervicitis, vaginitis, or complicated STD syndromes (PID)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform vaginal or endocervical NAAT testing for CT/GC; wet mount for bacterial vaginosis, <i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i>, and Candida testing Prioritize CT/GC NAAT testing for women under 25 with cervicitis or PID 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These are priority cases Empirically treat according to 2015 CDC STD Treatment Guidelines
Individuals with proctitis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If rectal CT/GC NAAT test kits are available, obtain a rectal specimen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empirically treat according to 2015 CDC STD Treatment Guidelines Consider therapy for herpes simplex virus if pain or mucocutaneous lesions are present (see CDC April 6th Dear Colleague Letter)
PrEP Users and Sexual Partners		
Population	How to Test	How to Treat
Individuals taking PrEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The frequency of CT/GC screening should be in accord with the current CDC PrEP guidelines If CT/GC test kits are severely limited, extended extragenital screening intervals may be considered by the clinician 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treat asymptomatic and symptomatic individuals taking PrEP according to CDC's Tier 2 Recommendations and 2015 STD Treatment Guidelines
Sexual partners of individuals diagnosed with CT/GC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider forgoing testing if CT/GC NAAT kits are severely limited 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empirically treat for the appropriate organism according to 2015 CDC STD Treatment Guidelines

* e.g. those who have a new sex partner, more than one sex partner, a sex partner with concurrent sex partners, or a sex partner who has a STI