Memorandum

To: Gold Coast Health Plan Primary Care Providers
From: Nancy R. Wharfield, MD, Chief Medical Officer
        Kim Timmerman, MHA, CPHQ, Director of Quality Improvement
        Lupe Gonzalez, MPH, PhD, Director of Health Education, Cultural and Linguistic Services
Re: Chlamydia Screening for Women 16-24 Years of Age
Date: March 4, 2021

The Managed Care Accountability Set (MCAS) Chlamydia Screening in Women (CHL) performance measure identifies the percentage of women, 16-24 years of age, who were sexually active and who had at least one test for chlamydia during a particular measurement year. For Measurement Year (MY) 2020, MCAS data shows that fewer Gold Coast Health Plan (GCHP) members completed their chlamydia screening than in the previous year:

- **2019 MY Rate**: 56.02
- **2020 MY Rate (Jan-Nov)**: 51.01
- **2020 MY Benchmark**: 58.44

Despite the restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there are ways to support members in completing their screenings. GCHP has a list of best practices and other resources to use when reaching out to encourage patients to complete chlamydia and other screenings for sexually transmitted infections (STI).

**Best Practices for Chlamydia Screening**
1) Openly discuss sex and sexual health, including sexual history and risk of STIs. Make it a part of routine discussion when talking with young adult women. Incorporate women’s values and the possibility of having children.
2) **AVOID** questions associated with assumptions, such as, “Do you want / need to be screened?” **USE** normalizing and open-ended language, such as, “What do you know about STIs?”
3) Practice universal urine specimen collection at time of registration (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendation).
4) Consider offering self-collected vaginal swabs, which can be done during a non-gynecology visit.
The following are resources for your review and use:

**Online Resources**
1) CDC:
   a) [Tips for Developing Chlamydia Screening Messages and Materials for Young Women](#)
   b) [Guide to Taking a Sexual History](#)

2) Family Planning National Training Center:
   a) [Discussion Guide: Using Normalizing and Opt-out Language Training Activity](#)
   b) [PowerPoint: Using Normalizing and Opt-out Language for Chlamydia Screening](#)

**GCHP Resources**
1) Free health education services to help members achieve a healthy lifestyle:
   a) [Health Education Resources](#)
   b) [Health Library](#)

2) For more information on the CHL performance measure and/or to discuss your individual clinic performance, email the Quality Improvement Department at [QualityImprovement@goldchp.org](mailto:QualityImprovement@goldchp.org).

3) Refer members with questions to the Health Education Department at [HealthEducation@goldchp.org](mailto:HealthEducation@goldchp.org).