

# Memorandum

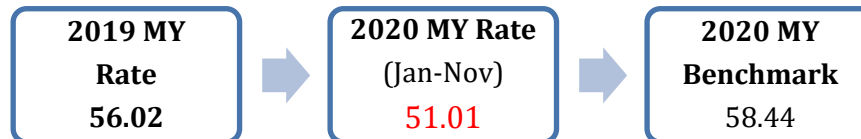
To: Gold Coast Health Plan Primary Care Providers

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:



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).