

# Chlamydia Screening (CHL)

## FOR CALIFORNIA HEALTH & WELLNESS PROVIDERS

*Learn how to improve your Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) rates. This tip sheet gives key details about the Chlamydia Screening (CHL) measure, best practices and more resources.*

<b>Measure</b>	<p>The percentage of women ages 16–24 who are identified as sexually active and who had at least one test for Chlamydia as of December 31 of the measurement year.</p> <p>Report two age stratifications and a total rate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16–20</li> <li>• 21–24</li> <li>• Total</li> </ul>
<b>Exclusions</b>	<p>Exclude patients who qualified for the denominator – a pregnancy test alone, and meets either of the following criteria.</p> <p>On the date of the pregnancy test or six days after, the patient:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Was prescribed isotretinoin.</li> <li>• Received an X-ray.</li> </ul>
<b>Highlights</b>	<p>CHL can have no symptoms for several weeks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Routine screening is key to detection.</li> <li>• Spreads through unprotected vaginal, anal or oral sex.</li> <li>• Symptoms can include vaginal discharge, a burning feeling when urinating and pain in the lower abdomen.</li> </ul>
<b>Barriers</b>	<p>Patients may view a CHL screening as sensitive services. This can prevent talking with their doctor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provider does not know a patient is sexually active to initiate talks.</li> <li>• Patient is not aware of screening guidelines to ask questions.</li> <li>• Parents go with children to doctor visits and may not know their child is sexually active. Parents then refuse the screening.</li> </ul>
<b>Best practices</b>	<p>Yearly screening for sexually active women ages 24 and younger, and in older women who are at an increased risk for infection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use pharmacy data, claims and encounters to identify sexually active women.</li> <li>• Screen patients who use birth control.</li> <li>• Talk about screening guidelines during annual checkups or other exams.</li> <li>• Share the value of a CHL screening.</li> </ul>
<b>CPT codes</b>	<p>Use the appropriate CPT code when billing for CHL screenings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 87110</li> <li>• 87320</li> <li>• 87810</li> <li>• 87270</li> <li>• 87490–87492</li> </ul>



### Resources

- U.S. Preventive Services Task Force:  
[www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Document/RecommendationStatementFinal/chlamydia-and-gonorrhea-screening](http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Document/RecommendationStatementFinal/chlamydia-and-gonorrhea-screening).
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:  
[www.cdc.gov/std/chlamydia/default.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/std/chlamydia/default.htm).
- Center for Young Women's Health:  
<https://youngwomenshealth.org/2012/11/20/chlamydia/>.