November 2018
Re: Syphilis Increase in Oneida County

Dear Medical Providers:

In follow up to New York State’s Congenital Syphilis alert, I am writing to alert you to a potential serious health issue that may affect your patients.

Syphilis:

- To date in 2018, there have been fifteen (15) new cases of early syphilis diagnosed in Oneida County, a 200% increase in one year. Three of these have been among women, compared to zero cases among women in all of 2017.
- Syphilis is highly contagious and may present with a variety of symptoms an ulcerative lesion, rash, or may be asymptomatic.
- Given the increase of syphilis locally, please consider screening all clients upon admission to your program. Providers who care for women of childbearing age are asked to review NYSDOH recommendations for screening, diagnosis and treatment of syphilis.
- Providers who care for women of childbearing age are encouraged to take measures to ensure timely screening, diagnosis, and treatment of syphilis infection.
- If your practice does not provide syphilis, testing and/or treatment please refer patients to either Planned Parenthood Utica (315-724-6146) or Planned Parenthood Rome (315-337-8584) as they are the official STD clinics for Oneida County.
- If your clinicians need guidance, please contact, Clinical Education Initiative (CEI) - Clinical inquiry for HIV, HCV, STD, PEP, PrEP 1-866-637-2342.
- In addition, we rely on your continued assistance promoting Partner Services. New York State Department of Health Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) staff deliver this service for patients diagnosed with syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia and HIV/AIDS. Partner Services provides positive patients with options about how their sex or needle-sharing partners can learn of their exposure and provide referrals for testing and treatment. This remains the best way to stop further transmission. Contact the NYS DOH Central NY Regional office for more information about Partner Services at 1-800-878-3827.

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References:
CDC STD Treatment Guidelines - Syphilis Treatment Recommendations for Patients and their Partners: https://www.cdc.gov/std/tg2015/syphilis.htm
Health Advisory: Congenital Syphilis Increasing in NYS Excluding NYC

“PROMOTING AND PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF ONEIDA COUNTY”