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## Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD)

### Can't you just draw some blood?

Testing for sexually transmitted infections (STI) isn't always as easy as checking blood work. There isn't one universal test that would test for "all STDs" either. In order to determine whether or not you have an infection and what types of tests should be done, the doctor will need to ask questions about your sexual history and what symptoms you might have. Also remember that just because you've tested "negative" for one STI you still may have another.

Here's a list of the testing done for STIs.

Infection	Test	Notes
HPV (Human Papillomavirus, including genital warts)	<i>Women:</i> inspection and Pap smear <i>Men:</i> inspection	No reliable blood test exists. Physician inspection in males is current screening
Chlamydia	<i>Women:</i> endocervical probes or tests done in conjunction with Pap smear. Urine tests available too. <i>Men:</i> urethral probe or urine test	Blood testing not used. Costs vary up to \$50 Asymptomatic women may consider screening.
Gonorrhea	<i>Women:</i> endocervical probes or tests done in conjunction with Pap smear. Urine tests available too. <i>Men:</i> urethral probe or urine test	Blood testing not used. Costs vary up to \$50
Herpes	<i>Women and Men:</i> Most definitive test is inspection and culture of area of concern	Blood testing can be expensive and not routinely done for screening.
Syphilis	<i>Women and Men:</i> blood testing available	
Hepatitis B, C	<i>Women and Men:</i> blood testing available	Vaccine available to prevent Hepatitis B
HIV/AIDS (Human Immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome)	<i>Women and Men:</i> blood testing available	Repeat testing within 6 months recommended for those at higher risk.