



**BC Centre for Disease Control**  
An agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority

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**Date:** July 29, 2015

**Administrative Circular:** 2015:12

**ATTN:** Medical Health Officers and Branch Offices  
Public Health Nursing Administrators and Assistant Administrators  
Holders of Communicable Disease Control Manuals

**Re:** Revisions to the Communicable Disease Control Manual –  
Chapter 5 Sexually Transmitted Infections

Please note the following changes to the Communicable Disease Control Manual –  
Chapter 5 Sexually Transmitted infections:

**BCCDC DECISION SUPPORT TOOL (DST) – GENITAL HERPES SIMPLEX VIRUS  
(HSV) – Updated – Discard and Replace Entire DST**

- **page 3 – Physical Assessment** - included: “in the presence of extensive vulvar or cervical involvement, a pelvic exam may be deferred and replaced with a urine screen or blind vaginal swab collected by the clinician or the client.”
- **page 3 – Physical Assessment** – removed heading: “Both Genders”; replaced with “All Genders”.
- **page 3 – Physical Assessment – All Genders** – removed: “ulcerative lesions may persist for 4 to 15 days”. Replaced with “ulcerative lesions may persist for 4 to 15 days or for up to 3 weeks with a primary infection.”
- **page 4 – Diagnostic Tests** – removed: “ HSV PCR swab has replaced an HSV culture as the recommended screening test for lesions that are presumed to be HSV. HSV PCR is four times more sensitive than HSV culture and is 100% specific”. Replaced with “HSV PCR swab is the recommended screening test for lesions that are presumed to be HSV.”
- **page 5 – Diagnostic Tests** – under *Serology* – removed: “Routine Serology: Syphilis RPR” for STI screening. Replaced with “HSV serology is not included in routine STI screening serology. Routine STI screening serology includes: Syphilis, HIV (formatted in bulleted list).”
- **page 9 – Consultation or Referral** – included: “clients who require antiviral prescription”

**Please remove the following DST from the Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 5 Sexually Transmitted Infections, Section I – STI:**

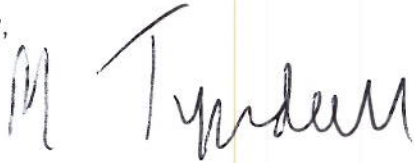
- BCCDC Non-certified practice decision support tool – Genital Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV) March 2012 (pp. 1-10)

**Please insert the following updated DST to the Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 5 Sexually Transmitted Infections, Section I – STI**

- BCCDC Non-certified practice decision support tool – Genital Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV) July 2015 (pp. 1-10)

If you have any questions regarding these practice changes, please contact Cheryl Prescott, Senior Practice Leader, STI and TB, Clinical Prevention Services at 604-707-5651 [cheryl.prescott@bccdc.ca](mailto:cheryl.prescott@bccdc.ca) or Manav Gill, Manager Public Health & Education Services, Clinical Prevention Services at 604-707-2746 [manav.gill@bccdc.ca](mailto:manav.gill@bccdc.ca).

Sincerely,



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BC Centre for Disease Control

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