



Date: January 26, 2026

Administrative Circular: 2026:01

**ATTN:**

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

**Re: Update to Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 5: Sexually Transmitted Infections:  
Section I: STIs**

**BCCDC Certified Practice Decision Support Tools (DSTs) for Sexually Transmitted Infections**

On Nov. 27, 2025, the British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives Board approved revisions to the [Registered Nurse \(Certified Practice\) Reproductive Health: Sexually Transmitted Infections](#) practice standard, which take effect Jan. 26, 2026. These changes authorize Registered Nurses with Certified Practice designation (RN[C]) in STI to provide presumptive treatment in situations with high clinical suspicion of primary or secondary syphilis. This expansion represents important advancement toward Goal 6 of the BC Syphilis Action Plan to improve timely access to treatment, particularly in communities experiencing higher transmission. In response to these changes, updates have been made to the Syphilis DST as well as the Assessment and Diagnostic DST to align language, and direction with the revised certified practice scope.

Additionally, the Gonorrhea and Chlamydia DSTs have been updated to include guidance for managing indeterminate results and to clarify wording based on practitioner feedback.

Key updates are highlighted below:

- **Syphilis Certified Practice DST**
  - This document has now become a Certified Practice DST
  - The scope section has been updated to state RN(C)s are authorized to provide presumptive treatment in scenarios of high clinical suspicion for primary and secondary syphilis
  - Wording has been updated to reflect sexual transmission and vertical transmission details as congenital syphilis has re-emerged in BC
  - Information on screening for pregnant individuals has been updated to align with Perinatal BC recommendations

- An addition has been made to consider a pelvic exam during physical assessment if appropriate
- Diagnostic & screening tests have been reformatted into a chart to align with other DSTs
- Follow-up serology recommendations have been adjusted to align with current practice:
  - Primary & Secondary Syphilis: Ideally RPR will drop 4-fold by 12 months post treatment (previously 12 – 24 months)
  - Early latent & LSUD: RPR will drop 4-fold 12-24 months post-treatment
  - Late latent: follow-up recommendations will be dependent on exposure factors (removal of 12 month recommendation)
- The traceback section has been formatted to align with other DSTs, and Early latent or LSUD contact recommendations may vary based on previous serology results

**Please remove all pages of the Syphilis Non-Certified DST and print all pages of the Syphilis Certified DST dated January 2026. As it is now part of Certified Practice, it is found on the [STI Certified Practice](#) webpage.**

- **Assessment & Diagnostic Guideline**

- Syphilis has been added to list of conditions that are within the scope of certified practice to align with the changes to the practice standard

**Please remove page 1 from the Assessment & Diagnostic Guideline and print page 1 dated January 2026.**

- **Chlamydia DST**

- Direction for indeterminate results has been updated, advising contacts of indeterminate results to be tested.

**Please remove page 5 from the Chlamydia DST and print page 5 of the Chlamydia DST dated January 2026.**

- **Gonorrhea DST**

- Testing recommendations for contacts for gonorrhea have had wording clarified to complete a pelvic exam if appropriate.
- Direction for indeterminate results has been updated, including directions for contacts of indeterminate results for scenarios with, and without culture results.

**Please remove all pages from the Gonorrhea DST and print all pages of the Gonorrhea DST dated January 2026.**

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact Julie Holt, Senior Practice Leader, STBBI at [Julie.Holt@bccdc.ca](mailto:Julie.Holt@bccdc.ca).

Sincerely,



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