### 2.11 IUC Complications - Genital Actinomycosis

**DEFINITION**

Actinomyces israelii is an anaerobic bacterium capable of causing a rare, but severe, pelvic infection. Actinomyces species are normal inhabitants of the female genital tract and has a preference for growing on foreign bodies.

**SUBJECTIVE:**

See Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID) protocol (7.1)

**OBJECTIVE:**

See PID protocol (7.1)

**LABORATORY:**

Pap smear showing Actinomycosis like organisms

**ASSESSMENT**

IUC/IUS with Actinomycosis on Pap test with or without pelvic infection

**PLAN**

1. Assess patient for any signs of PID
2. If asymptomatic, advise patient of pap test results
3. If symptoms of PID, treat according to current CDC STD Treatment Guidelines
4. Advise patient IUC does not need to be removed
5. If patient continues with IUC, reassess in 24-48 hours
   a. If clinical improvement, may continue with IUC
   b. If no clinical improvement, continue antibiotics and consider removing the IUC
6. If patient wants the IUC removed, remove it and offer another method of contraception
7. Offer emergency contraception

**CLIENT EDUCATION**

1. Advise patient of actinomycosis on pap
2. Review signs and symptoms of pelvic infection (mild fever, lower abdominal pain, abnormal vaginal bleeding, unusual vaginal discharge, loss of appetite, fatigue, noticeable bulge or lump in the pelvis)
3. Advise patient to RTC if concerns

**PHYSICIAN CONSULT/REFERRAL**

See Plan