

8.3.3 SEXUAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT

Policy: Title X clients must receive a sexual health assessment that considers their sexual practices, partners and past sexually transmitted infection (STI) history during visits related to contraceptive services, achieving pregnancy, preconception health, basic infertility services and STI services. A sexual health assessment may be conducted during the pregnancy counseling and testing visit based on client's needs and medical history.

Procedure:

1. Questions related to the sexual health assessment are integrated into the comprehensive health history, collected at the client's first visit and updated annually (see MT TX Administrative Manual Policy 8.4.1 *Comprehensive Health History*).
2. During subsequent visits, the sexual health assessment should be updated. This may be accomplished by using the health history or by asking the client:
 - a. If there has been a change in the client's partner(s)
 - b. What are his/her current or future contraceptive needs
 - c. Are there other changes in sexual health assessment, including change in sexual activity, STI history or exposure
3. Steps in conducting a sexual health assessment include:
 - a. **Practices:** Assess the type of sexual activity in which the client engages (e.g. vaginal, anal and/or oral sex). Topics such as monogamy and abstinence also can be discussed.
 - b. **Pregnancy prevention:** Determine current and future contraceptive options. Ask about current and previous use of methods, use of contraception at last intercourse, difficulties with contraception, and whether the client has a particular method in mind.
 - c. **Partners:** Ask questions to determine the number, gender (men, women, or both), and concurrency of the client's sex partners (if partner had sex with another partner while still in a sexual relationship with the client). It might be necessary to define the term "partner" to the client, or use other relevant terminology.
 - d. **Protection for STI's:** Ask about condom use, with whom they do or do not use condoms, and situations that make it harder or easier to use condoms.
 - e. **Past STI history:** Ask about any history of STI's, including whether their partners have ever had a STI. Explain that the likelihood of a STI is higher with a past history of a STI.
 - f. **Documentation:** The sexual health assessment and recommendations for follow-up must be documented in the client's medical record.