**LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

**Policy Title:** Express STI Clinic Services

**Purpose:**  To establish guidelines and procedures for implementation of Express STI Clinic services.

**Policy:** The local health department will establish an Express STI Clinic to increase the capacity of the agency to screen asymptomatic clients for Sexually Transmitted Infections. Express services omit the complete physical exam, allowing the client to have a brief history; to self-collect for gonorrhea and chlamydia screenings; and to have blood drawn for HIV and Syphilis screening. These clinic services should be implemented according to local and state laws and in accordance with the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) current STI Treatment Guidelines.

**Procedures:**

STAFFING FOR EXPRESS STI CLINIC

EXPRESS STI clinic will be staffed by *STD ERRN, RN, LPN, etc. (The agency must define who will staff the clinic – it can be a combination of staff members, depending on agency needs).* All staff covering EXPRESS Clinic will:

* receive an agency orientation to EXPRESS Clinic operations prior to staffing the clinic
* receive training *(defined by agency)*  on current STI screening and treatment guidelines per the CDC and NCDPH and be able to verbalize the differences between a full STI exam and an Express STI visit
* receive training on completing the agency medical record for EXPRESS Clinic
* complete annual training (*defined by agency)* on STI-related content to remain current on STD screening and treatment recommendations.

ACCESS TO SERVICES

The EXPRESS STI clinic of the *agency* will be available by appointment / walk-in request\* for asymptomatic patients who are requesting STI screening. EXPRESS STI services include a brief history (using NCDHHS 2808 Express form), a review of the screening tests being offered, instructions on collection of specimens, and education regarding how test results will be shared and how necessary follow-up will occur.

The appointments / walk-in requests\* for the EXPRESS STI Clinic will be scheduled / handled\* via telephone call or in-person at the registration desk. All patients for the EXPRESS STI Clinic will have the required demographic and billing information collected at registration before moving to the clinic.

*\*Choose appropriate language based upon whether your agency uses an appointment system, or a walk-in system for Express services.*

ELIGIBILITY for Express

All patients for the EXPRESS STI Clinic will complete a process to determine eligibility for EXPRESS services. *Your agency can define how the eligibility process will be handled here: include whether the eligibility tool is written (filled out by patient OR filled out by staff) or verbal; whether the eligibility tool is completed at registration or in the clinic; define the eligibility questions.*

* Are you currently experiencing any discharge from your vagina /penis, or rectum?
* Are you experiencing any burning upon urination?
* Do you currently have any bumps, sores, lesions, or rash?
* Are you experiencing any pain in your abdomen, genital area, or rectum?
* Have you been told by a sexual partner, a DIS, or a provider that you needed to come in for treatment?

 **If yes to any of the above questions, the patient DOES NOT qualify for EXPRESS STI Clinic and will be rescheduled or referred to the STI Clinic for a full evaluation.**

CLINIC VISIT

Once client is moved to the EXPRESS STI Clinic the staff member will *(agency should define and order these steps to meet agency need)*:

* Introduce themselves to client
* Verify client identity
* Review the services included in EXPRESS clinic (screening for gonorrhea and chlamydia at all sites of exposure, bloodwork for syphilis and HIV, Hepatitis B/C based on eligibility)
* Explain what services ARE NOT included in EXPRESS clinic (physical assessment, point-of-care testing such as wet mount, Gram stain, HSV testing, etc.)
* Complete agency medical record / flowsheet for EXPRESS Clinic services, using NCDHHS 2808 Express form as the guide
* Follow EXPRESS STI Clinic standing orders to order and collect specimens
* Instruct the client on self-collection of gonorrhea and chlamydia specimens and allow the client to self-collect
* Escort client to lab for blood collection
* Educate client on plan for receiving results and how follow-up of any abnormal results will be handled
* Offer client-centered counseling on STI risk factors and risk reduction

FOLLOW UP

EXPRESS Clinic staff will monitor lab results as they return. The staff member will follow the agency policy on follow-up of abnormal test results for any abnormal labs resulting from EXPRESS STI Clinic. This follow-up will include contacting the client, arranging for treatment, and ensuring partner notification occurs.

PROGRAM QUALITY ASSURANCE

STI Program staff will implement ongoing quality assurance activities for the EXPRESS STI Clinic. This includes record audits conducted per agency policy using an approved audit tool. Items that are out of compliance should be addressed internally and ongoing compliance issues should be shared with the regional TATP consultant.

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*NAME (signature)*, Medical Director Date

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*NAME (printed)*, Medical Director