



## NWT Clinical Practice Information Notice

Upon receipt, please file this notice in **Section C, Clinical Practice Information Binder** for future reference.

The following clinical practice has been approved for use in the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services system, and has been distributed to:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hospitals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Community Health Centres	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Homecare		LTC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pharmacists
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Doctor's Offices	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Social Services Offices	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Health Units		Please list other(s):		

The information contained in this document is a Departmental:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clinical Standard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Protocol	<input type="checkbox"/>	Procedure	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clinical Practice Guideline
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**Title:** Revised Enhanced Congenital Syphilis Screening, Treatment and Reporting

**Effective Date:** September 9, 2022

**Important: CPI #176 supersedes Enhanced Syphilis Screening CPI #173**

**Statement of approved Clinical Practice:**

The Northwest Territories (NWT) Chief Public Health Officer endorses the [Public Health Agency of Canada \(PHAC\) Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections](#) and the adoption of the [World Health Organization's](#) guidelines for congenital syphilis screening. The Chief Public Health Officer strongly recommends that all pregnant persons in the NWT be offered syphilis screening:

- at time of pregnancy confirmation or at first prenatal visit
- **around 28-32 weeks (NEW\*);** and
- in the immediate post-partum period.

Given the continued rise of syphilis globally, universal screening of all pregnant persons continues to be important and remains the standard of care in most jurisdictions.

**Treatment of Pregnant Individuals Diagnosed with Syphilis (NEW\*)**

The Chief Public Health Officer endorses the adoption of [Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections recommended treatment for infectious syphilis in pregnancy](#). The Chief Public Health Officer strongly recommends that all pregnant persons who test positive for infectious syphilis while pregnant be treated with 2 separate doses (one week apart) of Benzathine penicillin G-LA 2.4 million units IM,

**Reporting of Syphilis Tests (NEW\*)**

In response to the elevated rates of syphilis in the NWT and subsequent risk of congenital syphilis, the Chief Public Health Officer requires **ALL syphilis screening tests be reportable to the Office of the Chief Public Health Officer, regardless of the result, within 24 hours.** Reporting audits will be completed on a regular basis by the Office of the Chief Public Health Officer.

The NWT is still experiencing an ongoing syphilis outbreak and new syphilis infections in residents of childbearing age. It is imperative to ensure that no opportunities are missed for early diagnosis and treatment. Untreated syphilis will result in long-term health consequences, as well as the severe morbidity and mortality associated with congenital syphilis infection.

An electronic copy of this notice is also available on the Department of Health and Social Services public website at: <http://www.professionals.hss.gov.nt.ca/document-categories/clinical-practice-information-notices>.

This clinical practice is approved.  September 9, 2022

Minister  Deputy Minister  Assistant Deputy Minister  Chief Public Health Officer