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Date: Apr 4, 2024

Administrative Circular: 2024:06

**ATTN:** Medical Health Officers and Branch Offices  
Public Health Nursing Administrators and Assistant Administrators  
Holder of Communicable Disease Control Manuals

**Re:** Revisions to the Communicable Disease Control Manual – Chapter 5: Sexually Transmitted Infections: Section 1: STIs

Please note the following changes to the BCCDC Communicable Disease Control Manual – Chapter 5: Sexually Transmitted Infections: Section 1: STIs

1. Please remove the following sections from the [Communicable Disease Control Chapter 5: Sexual Transmitted Infections](#): **Non-certified Practice Decision Support Tools for STI**

- Differences between Certified and Non-certified Practice (pp. 1)
- STI Screening and Testing Guide: Quick Reference Guide RN(C)s (pp. 1)
- HIV Pre Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) (pp. 1 – 8)

Please insert the following updated section into the [Communicable Disease Control Chapter 5: Sexual Transmitted Infections](#): **Non-certified Practice Decision Support Tools for STI**

- Certified Practice vs. Non-certified Practice: What is the difference? (pp. 1 – 3)
- STI Screening and Testing Guide: Quick Reference Guide for RN(C)s (pp. 1–3)
- HIV Pre Exposure Prophylaxis (HIV PrEP) (pp. 1 – 13)

2. Please note the following updates:

- **New format**
  - Documents are formatted on the new BCCDC guidelines template
- **Certified Practice vs. Non-certified Practice: What is the difference?**
  - Expanding and clarified the document to support a better understanding of the differences between certified and non-certified practice
  - Non-certified Practice Decision Support Tools
    - Expanded the tables in the document
    - Included note for testing: Medical service plan provider numbers are required to order most tests. RN(C)s can test autonomously with their provider number. RNs can only order tests under another clinician's

provider number. Employer support and clinician specific approval or order must be granted.

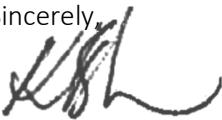
- **BCCDC STI Screening and Testing Guide: Quick Reference Guide for RN(C)s**
  - Tables are organized as follows:
    - Routine STI screening and testing based on site of exposure
    - Diagnostic testing: additional tests for symptomatic individuals and/or contacts to Gonorrhoea
  - Included images of the collection samples
  - Added an additional table to include additional testing options if applicable/indicated
- **BCCDC Non-certified Practice Decision Support Tool: HIV Pre Exposure Prophylaxis (HIV PrEP)**
  - **Background**
    - Moved select content to other sections to decrease duplication
    - Provided example of what is considered “management” for RNs supporting HIV PrEP access and care
  - **Scope**
    - Moved content from 2020 DST (found in “Sexual Health History and PrEP Eligibility”) to this “Scope” section to frame up front what is considered “in scope” for RNs
    - Additional content related to the limitations for RNs
      - Must have organizational/employer policies and processes in places
      - Cannot diagnose or treat diseases, disorders or conditions that fall under certified practice
  - **Etiology**
    - This is a new section for this DST with the intention to frame what HIV PrEP is being used for
  - **Epidemiology**
    - This is a new section for this DST with the intention to frame the epi trend for HIV in the context of the continued value of HIV PrEP
    - Added an “efficacy” subheader
  - **Clinical Presentation**
    - Moved the 2020 DST header “Sexual Health History and HIV PrEP Eligibility” as a sub-header under the new section “Clinical Presentation”
    - Moved content from 2020 DST version to the “Scope” section (as per above)
  - **Physical Assessment**

- This is a new section for this DST with the intention to highlight important considerations when assessing for HIV PrEP eligibility and continued monitoring
- **Diagnostic and Screening Tests**
  - Placed the 2020 DST header “Baseline Screening Tests” under this new header “Diagnostics and Screening Tests” to align with all non-CP DSTs
  - Inclusion of “... or serum HCG” for the pregnancy test
  - Removed “pooled” NAAT as this is no longer offered
- **Management/Clinical Evaluation**
  - This is a new section for this DST with the intention to highlight the management piece that RNs are able to perform within their scope for HIV PrEP
  - Content addition:
    - Provided examples of medication side effects
    - Addition of serum HCG to pregnancy test
- **Consultation or Referral**
  - Deletion of “*client request for intermittent or on-demand PrEP*” and this is now included in the updated BCCfE Guidelines
- **HIV-PrEP Dosing**
  - This is a new section for this DST with the intention to support RN understanding of the dosing for HIV PrEP for both daily and on-demand
- **Partner Notification**
  - This is a new section for this DST with the intention to align with the other non-CP DSTs
- **Potential Complications**
  - This is a new section for this DST with the intention to support the ongoing monitoring of HIV PrEP by RNs

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact:

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Sincerely,



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