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Dear Colleague:

With full support of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the Department of Public Health (DPH), the Division of HIV and STD Programs (DHSP) is continuing its public health education campaign to increase provider awareness of the rising rates of syphilis in general, and both congenital syphilis and rates of syphilis among women, in particular.

- Increases in female syphilis cases have led to a significant and steady increase in congenital syphilis cases in LA County with 136 reported cases in 2022.
- Congenital syphilis is a preventable condition that results from untreated syphilis during pregnancy, with potentially severe consequences for infected infants.

This ***Syphilis in Women Action Toolkit (Toolkit)*** includes clinical resources for your practice and educational materials for your patients. The *Toolkit* is structured around four core syphilis prevention practices for providers and their patients:

1. **Take a thorough sexual history** from all patients as part of routine medical care.
2. **Screen all women of reproductive age** (15-44 years) for syphilis at least once.
3. **Screen all pregnant women** for syphilis during the first trimester or at their initial prenatal visit. **Re-screen pregnant women** for syphilis early in the third trimester (28-32 weeks) *and* at delivery.
4. **Stage syphilis to treat syphilis correctly.** Assess signs and symptoms of syphilis in the last 12 months to determine if a client has early or late syphilis.

For help interpreting test results and guidance on appropriate staging and timely treatment, please call the DPH STD Provider Consultation line at 213-368-7441, Monday to Friday from 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

We look forward to partnering with you to implement these important syphilis prevention strategies.

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