

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 Centers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Homecare		LTCF	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lab Directors
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Doctors' Offices	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Social Services Offices	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Health Units		Other		

The information contained in this document is a Departmental:									
	Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Standard		Protocol		Procedure		Guideline

Title: Enhanced Syphilis Screening

Effective Date: January 23, 2009

Statement of approved Clinical Practice:

On the advice from the NWT Maternal/Perinatal Committee, the Office of the Chief Medical Health Officer recommends that in addition to the routine first trimester screen for syphilis, all pregnant women in the NWT be re-offered screening:

- Around 28-30 weeks, timed conveniently with the Glucose Challenge Test, and
- In the immediate post partum period.

The NWT is currently experiencing an outbreak of syphilis. Four pregnant women have tested positive and one congenital case has been confirmed to date. Up to two-thirds of neonates with syphilis will be asymptomatic. Therefore, it is imperative to ensure that no opportunities are missed for early diagnosis and treatment. Untreated syphilis will result in serious long-term consequences, such as the severe morbidity associated with persistent syphilis or possibly even the infant's demise.

All regional health authorities and health care professionals are to implement this standard immediately.

This clinical practice is approved.



(signature)

Assistant Deputy Minister Chief Medical Health Officer Director, Child & Family Services Director, Adoptions