

Clinical Toolkit

Clinical Tips: Syphilis

Syphilis is categorised into Early infection (less than two years) and Late infection (over two years duration).

The rates of syphilis have dramatically increased in the past few years. This increase is mainly in the Men who have sex with men (MSM) population. In Victoria, for example, there has been an ongoing epidemic in MSM since 2015.

Syphilis can lead to serious complications in otherwise healthy individuals.

Infection in pregnant women can lead to congenital syphilis. Screening in pregnancy is vital

All MSM should be offered yearly serology screening for syphilis at a minimum. 3-6 monthly screening should be offered for people at higher risk.

Screening and early detection of syphilis will reduce the duration of infectiousness of syphilis and therefore transmission.

Treatment regime is dependent on the stage of syphilis