

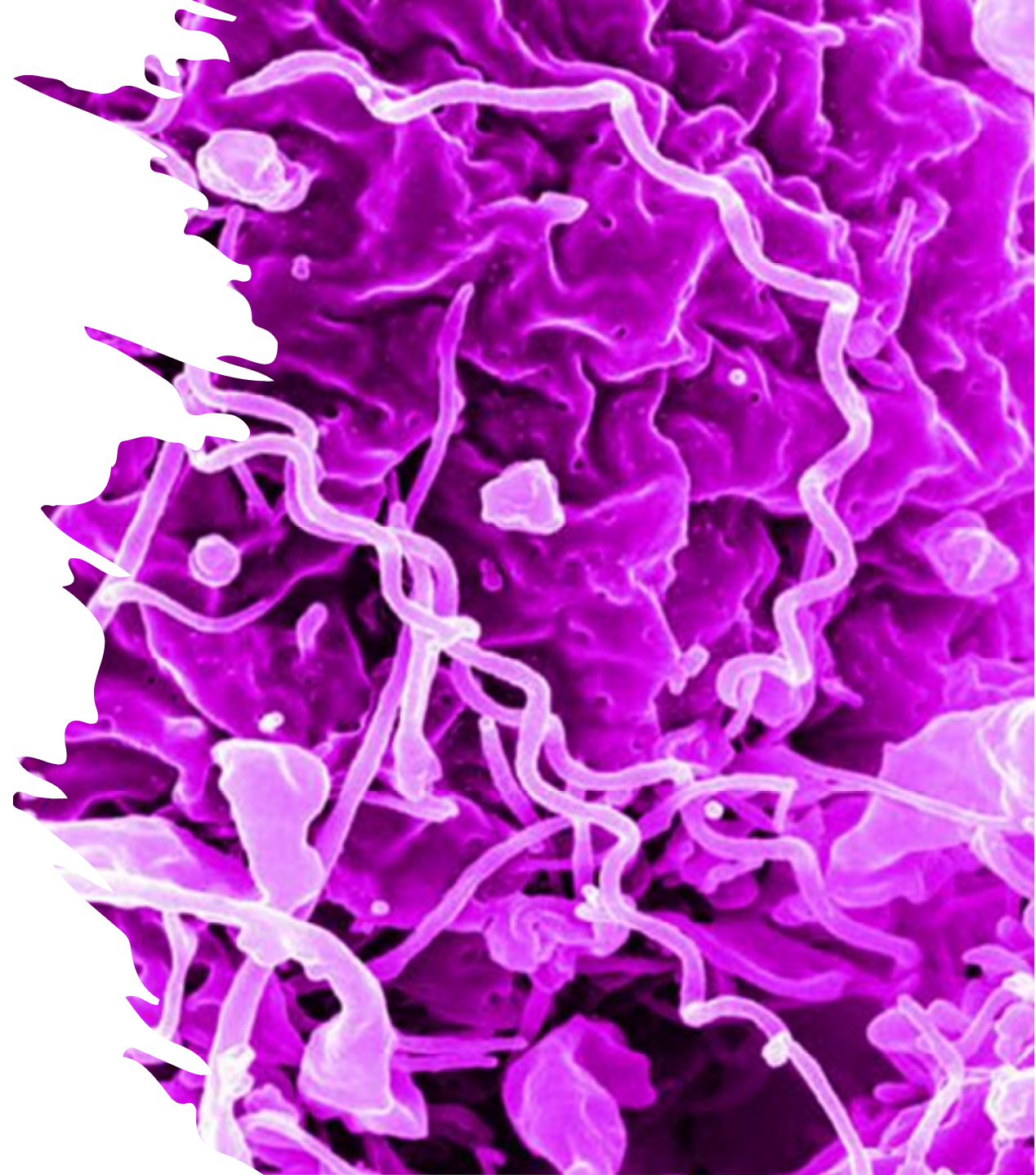
Congenital Syphilis

Upinder Singh, MD
Senior Medical Director, Centene



Congenital Syphilis

- Sexually Transmitted Diseases remain one of the most critical public health challenges. One sexually transmitted disease on the rise in the United States is Congenital Syphilis.
- Congenital Syphilis occurs when a mother with untreated Syphilis passes the infection to her baby during pregnancy or at birth.
- Congenital Syphilis can cause miscarriage or stillbirth and can also cause other serious health problems in babies including organ, brain, or nerve damage.
- The condition is completely preventable.
- Community education on how to prevent and treat Congenital Syphilis is critical and must be a multipronged approach to address increases of Congenital Syphilis amidst underlying social factors such as disparities in access to care, substance use, poverty, and homelessness



Syphilis Data

- In 2022, 3,755 cases of Congenital Syphilis were reported nationwide, including 282 Congenital Syphilis-related stillbirths and infant deaths.
- The national Congenital Syphilis rate of 102.5 cases per 100,000 live births in 2022 represents a 30.6% increase relative to 2021 and is the highest reported rate since 1991.
- These increases in Congenital Syphilis mirror increases in Syphilis among reproductive aged women.
- During 2021 to 2022 the rate of Syphilis increased 17.2% among women aged 15-44 years, and rates increased in 35 states.
- Nevada is ranked 9th for Congenital Syphilis rates in 2022.
- In 2022, Nevada reported 65 cases of Congenital Syphilis. This equates to a rate of 194 babies with Congenital Syphilis per 100k live births.
- Silver Summit Health Plan had 6% of all Nevada deliveries, but 23% of all Nevada Congenital Syphilis cases in 2022.

Testing

- Gestational syphilis is diagnosed most by routine serological screening of all women during pregnancy
- It is recommended that all pregnant women should screen at their first prenatal visit
- Women who are high risk for acquiring syphilis during pregnancy should undergo repeat testing during the third trimester (28 weeks) and at delivery
- Women who did not have prenatal care should have maternal syphilis serology performed before they and their child are discharged. Prompt follow-up after discharge should be done
- A diagnosis of maternal syphilis during the year after a woman gives birth should lead to testing of the infant.





Treatment in Pregnancy

- High priority to prevent transplacental transmission
- Penicillin G is the only known effective antimicrobial for treating fetal infection and preventing congenital syphilis
- Pregnant women should be treated with the recommended penicillin regimen for their stage of infection.
- Syphilis can be treated effectively with a penicillin regimen that is both appropriate for the stage of syphilis and initiated 30 days or more before delivery.

Summary

- Screenings and treatment are a covered benefit
- It is essential, to have all pregnant women get tested, and treated for Syphilis and prevent serious health complications for mother and her baby.
- Prenatal care is essential to the overall health and wellness of both mother and unborn child.
- Having a collaborative multi-pronged approach tailored to the populations of focus is imperative for improved outcomes.





Long Acting Reversible Contraceptives Postpartum

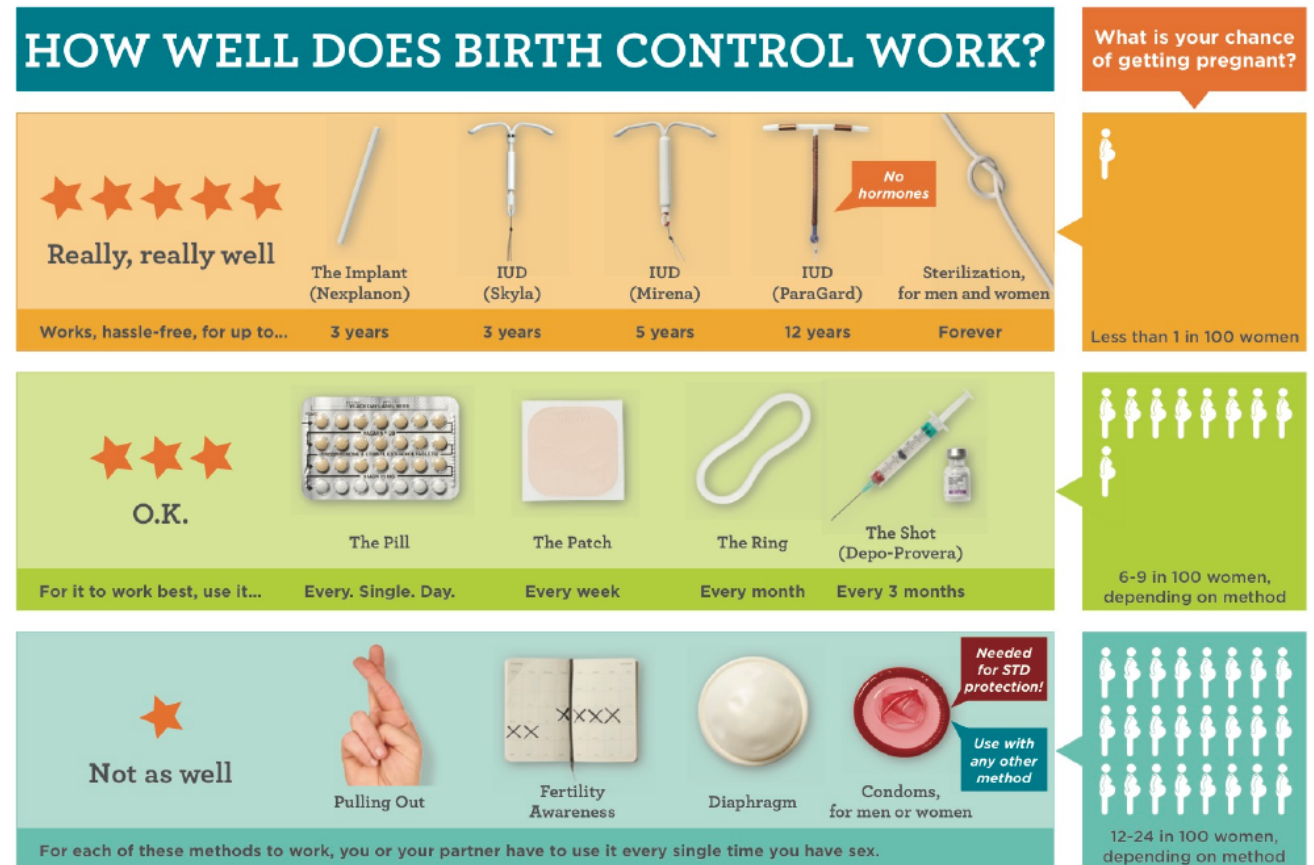
Upinder Singh, MD

Senior Medical Director, Centene



What are Long-acting Reversible Contraceptives

- The intrauterine device (IUD) and the birth control implant are long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) methods.
- Both are highly effective in preventing pregnancy.
- They last for several years and are easy to use.
- Both methods are reversible and can be removed at any time.
- LARC methods are a safe and effective birth control choice for teenagers and adults of all ages. They are also good methods to use right after having a baby.
- It is an innovative strategy to help reduce the rate of unintended short interval pregnancies (pregnancies that occur within 18 months of delivery)



Member Education

- Many women may feel pressured into birth control (BC) postpartum. Be sure to explain the benefits of pregnancy spacing and how BC can improve the postpartum period.
- IUD or implants can be inserted while the member is still in the delivery room or in the days after giving birth which means they will not need a separate office visit later and provides convenience to the member.

SB280 Law

- Effective Jan. 1st, the law requires hospitals to provide for the insertion or injection of long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) — which includes intrauterine devices (IUDs) or arm implants that prevent pregnancy for a certain number of years after a patient gives birth.
- Hospitals have been required to provide those contraceptives since October.
- Beginning in January, insurers are prohibited from refusing to cover LARC injections after giving birth.
- When a Long-Acting Reversible Contraceptive (LARC) is provided during an inpatient maternity stay, facilities may bill separately for the LARC device and insertion/removal procedure in addition to the maternity per diem payment.
- LARC devices will be priced per the drug reimbursement algorithm described in Nevada Medicaid State Plan.
- LARC insertion/removal procedures will be paid based on the rendering provider type as described in State Plan.





Additional Training Resources

- The Reproductive Health National Training Center has trainings to boost the knowledge of your staff. A Few Favorites are:
 - Determining Your Client's Need for Services and Discussing Reproductive Goals eLearning
 - Introduction to the Quality Family Planning Recommendations eLearning
 - Maternal Health Champion Training
- <https://rhntc.org/resources/training-lists>



TRAINING

References

- National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. Sexually Transmitted Infections: Adopting a Sexual Health Paradigm. 2021. <https://doi.org/10.17226/25955/>3/2024
- Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Sexually Transmitted Infection Treatment Guidelines, 2021. Syphilis During Pregnancy. <https://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment-guidelines/syphilis-pregnancy.htm> 3/2024
- American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC): Intrauterine Device (IUD) and Implant. 2023, April. <https://www.acog.org/womens-health/faqs/long-acting-reversible-contraception-iud-and-implant> 3/2024.