

2021 RECOMMENDATION UPDATE SUMMARY

Screening for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection

JANUARY 2022

WHAT DOES THE WPSI RECOMMEND?

For all adolescent and adult women, ages 15 and older:

Screening test for HIV at least once during their lifetime

For all adolescent and adult women age 13 and older and continuing as determined by risk:

Risk assessment and prevention education for HIV infection

For all pregnant women:

Screening test for HIV upon initiation of prenatal care with rescreening during pregnancy based on risk factors. Rapid HIV testing is recommended for pregnant women who present in labor with an undocumented HIV status.

WHAT ARE THE RISK FACTORS TO IDENTIFY THOSE AT INCREASED RISK FOR HIV INFECTION?

Risk factors for HIV infection in women include, but are not limited to, being an active injection drug user; having unprotected vaginal or anal intercourse; patient or patient's sex partner(s) having more than one sex partner since last HIV test; initiating a new sexual relationship; having sexual partners who have HIV or are bisexual or injection drug users; exchanging sex for drugs or money; being a victim of sex trafficking; being incarcerated now or in the past; and having other sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

WHAT'S NEW?

The updated clinical recommendation now specifies beginning screening at age 15.

WHAT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHEN IMPLEMENTING THIS RECOMMENDATION?

This recommendation refers to routine HIV screening tests, which are different from incident-based or exposure-based HIV tests. As determined by clinical judgment, more frequent testing for high-risk women is also recommended as a preventive service. Annual or more frequent HIV testing may be needed and is recommended as a preventive service for anyone who identifies or is identified as high risk.

Clinicians should consider the cultural and linguistic needs of individual patients, and prevention education should be respectful, affirming, and nonstigmatizing.

WHAT ARE OTHER RELEVANT RECOMMENDATIONS?

The WPSI has issued recommendations on [counseling for sexually transmitted infections \(STIs\)](#).

The USPSTF has issued recommendations on screening for HIV, including:

- [Human Immunodeficiency Virus \(HIV\) Infection: Screening](#)
- [Prevention of Human Immunodeficiency Virus \(HIV\) Infection: Preexposure Prophylaxis](#)
- [Sexually Transmitted Infections: Behavioral Counseling](#)

AAP/Bright Futures has issued recommendations on [HIV screening](#).

WHERE TO READ THE FULL RECOMMENDATION STATEMENT?

Visit the WPSI website to read the [full recommendation](#). This includes more details on implementation considerations, research recommendations, and the full evidence summary.

WHAT WPSI RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE?

- [Well-Woman Chart](#)
- [Clinical Summary Tables](#)
- [Coding Guide](#)
- [Patient Education Materials](#)

ABBREVIATIONS:

WPSI = Women's Preventive Services Initiative

HIV = human immunodeficiency virus

STI = sexually transmitted infection

USPSTF = United States Preventive Services Task Force

WPSI recommends and encourages access to and provision of respectful, gender-affirming, high-quality, and safe health care. Please see our [gender inclusivity statement](#) for more information.

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