

STI Billing FAQs

STI testing, treatment and services provided at the LHD's STI clinic are prohibited from billing services that are included on the Non-Chargeable List.

FY2020 Non-chargeable List

HIV/AIDS Counseling and Testing
STI Diagnosis and Treatment for individuals <19 years of age
STI Outreach
Infectious Disease Testing

Q: How do I charge a patient that requests their services be kept confidential?

A: The patient should provide proof of income; their financial responsibility would be based on the sliding fee scale applied to their total charges.

Q: What qualifies as proof-of-income?

A: The following are acceptable types of documents for income verification:

- Most recent pay stubs (two weekly; two biweekly; or one monthly)
- Tax records or returns
- Unemployment Award Notice
- Business records
- Statement of Projected Earnings
- Department of Labor statement
- Employer letter
- Income Source Statement
- Social Security Administration benefits information (e.g. Benefit Verification Letter, also called a Budget Letter; Benefits Letter or Income Letter; Payment History; Earning Record)
- Signed **Affidavit of Current Income**

Q: If a patient has insurance and they have a balance after their insurance processed their claim do we have to bill the patient or can we write-off the balance.

A: The patient has to be billed. The LHD should establish a policy and procedure on how they will handle hardship accounts. Adjustments for hardships must be based on a case-by-case basis.

Q: Does the LHD have to see patients residing outside their county?

A: Placeholder – Pending information from AG office

Q: Does the LHD have to provide services to patients residing outside their state?

A: Placeholder – Pending information from AG office

Q: A patient came into our STI clinic for a screening and was tested positive for chlamydia. Their insurance company applied the charges toward the patient's deductible. Doesn't the Affordable Care Act (ACA) state that the patient does not have a copay or deductible for preventative services?

A: Yes, the ACA eliminated collection of copays and deductibles for certain qualifying preventative services but if the patient is scheduled for a preventative but it turns out to be a medical reason for the visit such as a patient having a positive test result for chlamydia their visit no longer qualifies as a preventative visit.

Q: If a client <21 years of age comes to our STI clinic has insurance and provides that information, are we allowed to bill the insurance for it? My thinking is yes? Please correct me if I am wrong in thinking that.

A: No, STI diagnosis and treatment for individuals <21 years of age in on the Non-Chargeable list.

The following questions were presented to **MACHO**; answers were received on 12/2/16 via email from Ruth Executive Director, MACHO.

Q: Who is considered a "contact?"

A: A contact is:

- A partner of the person that came into the LHD for screening and treatment
- Person that DIS notifies/contacts (STI Outreach) to let them know they have been exposed to an STI
- Anyone who comes into LHD clinic saying partner tested positive for an STI (treat – no charge)
- Contacts of an STI patient
- Anyone coming into LHD clinic saying they had sexual relationship with someone diagnosed with an STI (could be: patient from clinic, DIS worker referred, or another local provider of LHD (will call provider to verify STI diagnosis)).

Q: "What do STI Outreach and Infectious Disease Testing mean on the Non-Chargeable List? Please provide an example:

A: "Routine testing including GC and CT via urine; Hep B, Hep C, RPR and HIV bloodwork Includes anything related to a diagnosed case of TB such as LFTs or TB screening test for high risk individuals. "For other communicable disease testing, done as recommended by DHMH." "For many, tests done at no charge (mumps pcr), the LHD has to call lab first for approval. Sometimes do tests that doctors are unable to do in their offices because specific collection kits are unavailable."

Q: Does "STI Outreach means the STI testing is done in a non-traditional venue such as a mobile health van, health fair, college campus, or elsewhere?"

A: "STI testing done at detention center, college, library HIV Orasure testing that the LHD completes, any events the LHD conducts outside other LHD clinic used for outreach testing."

The following questions were presented and answered by the - Maryland Office of the Attorney General, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. 300 W. Preston Street, Suite 302, Baltimore, Maryland 21201. Nicholas E. Johansson, AAG

Q: Is there a *legal mandate* for LHDs to provide or assure STI testing not associated with an official outbreak?

A: “HG § 2-304 states that the appropriations received by the LHDs shall be used for services directed at "communicable disease control services" , but I am unable to state whether STI testing is required under this provision or if it refers to treatment for other communicable diseases.” “HG § 3-306(4)(i) states that:

"The health officer for a county shall enforce throughout the county:

1. Under the direction of the Secretary, the State health laws and the policies, rules, and regulations that the Secretary adopts.
2. "Thus, if the Secretary requires the LHD's to provide or ensure the provision of Sexually Transmitted Disease services he could do so.
(I am unaware if there is such a requirement exists via policies, rules, or other agreements.)

Pursuant to COMAR 10.06.01.06 “The Secretary or Health Officer **shall**:

(1) [t]take any action necessary to prevent the spread of communicable disease or to control a reportable disease and condition; and

(2) [i]issue, when necessary, special instruction for control of a disease or condition.” This would suggest that the LHDs may need to provide or ensure provision of STI services if necessary to prevent the spread of an STI which would be a communicable disease.

The Health Officer is required to limit the spread of HIV transmission and to test persons accused or convicted of crimes in certain jurisdiction. See COMAR 10.18.04.02 and COMAR 10.52.10 HIV.