

# Increasing STI Screening Rates with Abortion Visits

Planned Parenthood of Southern New England, Inc. | New Haven, CT | October 15, 2025

## Plan

The goal of our QI Project was to increase the rates of screening for chlamydia screening for patients age 16-24 and to increase to rates of HIV screening for all patients at abortion visits.

### Intervention Strategies

While all staff have a general awareness that STI screening is important, we noted that our STI screening rates overall were lower than expected, indicating a disconnect between staff knowledge and behavior. Therefore, we set out to:

- Raise awareness of the importance of screening among all staff
- Pinpoint focused target groups for screening
- Provide language and tactics for increasing uptake of screening by patients
- Streamline workflows and processes for completing screening



### Intervention Population

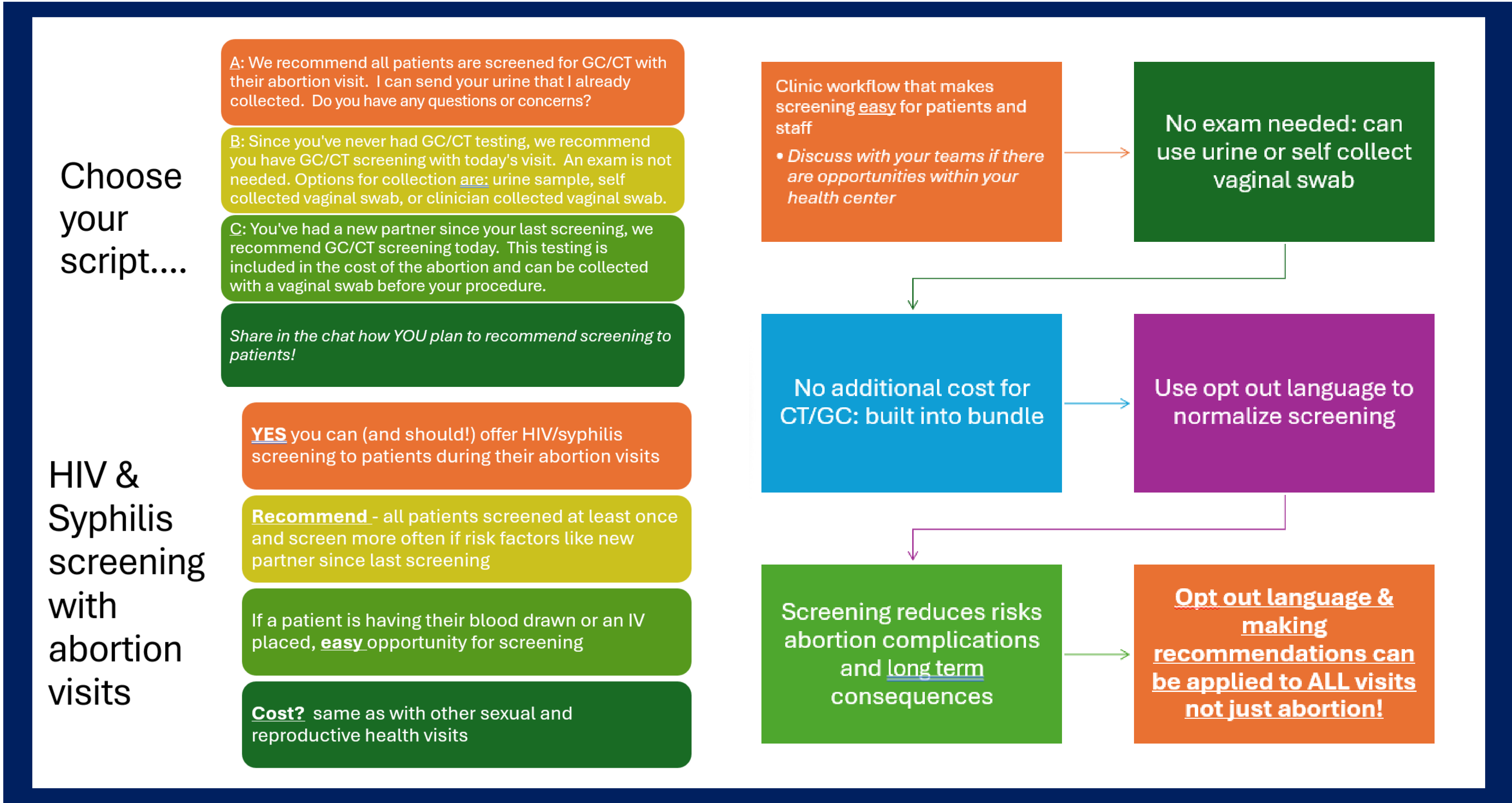
Patients seeking abortion care



### Implementation Activities

- Retrain all staff (licensed and non-licensed staff) on CDC recommendations for screening:
  - Chlamydia
    - Age < 25: at least annually
    - Age > 25: who have a new partner, more than one partner, partner w/ concurrent partners, or partner w/ an STI
  - HIV
    - All patients screened at least once
    - Screen more often: inject drugs, exchange sex for money/drugs, new partner since last screening, receiving treatment for hepatitis/TB/STI
- Provide training on using opt-out language to recommend STI screening
  - Screening approach that presents GC/CT and HIV testing as the default unless a patient actively declines
  - Normalizes screening
- Proactively address patient barriers
  - Cost: Name upfront that screening is covered by most insurances, have the out-of-pocket costs at the team's fingertips, include in the bundled cost for abortion services
  - Time: Inform patient that tests can be done on urine sample being collect for pregnancy test, and HIV drawn while checking serum hcg or starting an IV

## Do



## Act

- After initial intervention of training all staff, focused on targeted in person trainings with teams with continued low rates below goal
- Sharing data monthly with all teams to maintain momentum and self identify gaps
- With data, also sharing strategies and reminders regarding utilization of opt out language, addressing patient barriers, and best practice clinic work flows

### Lessons Learned & Impact on Increasing STI Screening Rates

Normalized and incorporated HIV screening into abortion visits

Increased Chlamydia screening rate to >80% for pts aged 16-24 for both medication and procedural abortion

Overall practice change of using opt out language with all visit types



## Study

Percent Patients Aged 16-24 Screening for Chlamydia w/ MAB visit

Health Center	Q3 2024 Jul to Sep (baseline)	Q4 2024 Oct to Dec	Q1 2025 Jan to Mar	Q2 2025 Apr to June	July 2025	August 2025
Bridgeport	63	88	82	89	83	87
Danbury	95	91	98	100	100	100
Enfield	32	41	91	81	64	88
Hartford North	63	74	80	90	96	92
Manchester	74	93	81	77	83	93
Meriden	44	71	81	86	89	94
New Haven	51	60	78	75	75	82
New London	43	64	83	97	93	83
Norwich	43	58	64	90	91	78
Providence	34	29	41	47	67	61
Stamford	78	82	82	88	70	81
Telehealth*	16	20	26	30	58	22
Torrington	48	70	82	85	57	75
Waterbury	69	82	89	88	97	89
Willimantic	38	79	78	91	100	80
West Hartford	74	80	77	92	90	100
Total	55	67	74	80	83	84

Percent Patients Aged 16-24 Screened for CT With PAB Visit

Health Center	Q3 2024 Jul to Sep (baseline)	Q4 2024 Oct to Dec	Q1 2025 Jan to Mar	Q2 2025 Apr to June	July 2025	August 2025
New Haven	84	94	95	96	98	98
Norwich	76	77	84	88	100	100
Providence	55	61	72	78	88	94
Stamford	90	92	87	83	100	100
West Hartford	88	90	92	91	100	100
Total	76	80	86	89	96	98

Percent Patients Screening for HIV w/ MAB visit

Health Center	Q3 2024 Jul to Sep	Q4 2024 Oct to Dec	Q1 2025 Jan to Mar	Q2 2025 Apr to June	July 2025	August 2025
Bridgeport	7	15	24	13	10	19
Danbury	11	11	19	22	8	19
Enfield	3	13	10	6	3	8
Hartford North	14	21	26	23	30	34
Manchester	25	43	24	29	36	23
Meriden	15	21	26	24	24	30
New Haven	4	13	17	16	13	9
New London	3	5	13	8	3	4
Norwich	1	2	5	12	5	4
Providence	7	10	13	13	13	16
Stamford	12	13	25	27	24	24
Torrington	5	5	11	17	14	29
Waterbury	1	8	8	10	5	5
Willimantic	12	12	22	13	26	19
West Hartford	7	8	14	19	28	13
Total	9.0	14	17	17	17	17

Percent of Patients Screened for HIV During PAB Visit

Health Center	Q3 2024 Jul to Sep (baseline)	Q4 2024 Oct to Dec	Q1 2025 Jan to Mar	Q2 2025 Apr to June	July 2025	August 2025
New Haven	1	35	52	56	51	51
Norwich	0	9	20	37	36	30
Providence	3	13	27	41	42	45
Stamford	2	19	50	54	54	43
West Hartford	0	8	37	39	29	32
Total	1	18	38	46	42	42

### QI Project Team, Contact Information

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