SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTION (STI)

How old do I have to be to get tested or treated for a sexually transmitted infection (STI) on my own?

You can get tested and treated for an STI by your doctor or at a clinic at any age.

If you are 12 or younger and you test positive for an STI, the doctor or clinic has to report your name, age and address to DCF (Dept. of Children and Families).

Will my parents find out?

You have a legal right to be tested and treated for an STI without having to ask or tell your parents.

A doctor’s office or a clinic that tests you for an STI cannot send a bill to anyone but you. Most clinics will not require you to pay the full amount. You should ask the doctor about this. The doctor’s office or clinic is required by law to report certain diseases to the Department of Public Health. But, the information will still be confidential.

If you test positive for chlamydia or gonorrhea, you can help your partner get treatment even if they do not come into the office or clinic. Your doctor or medical provider can give you a prescription or medication to take to your partner. This is called Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) and helps stop the spread of STI’s.

HIV/AIDS

Can I get tested or treated for HIV/AIDS confidentially?

Testing

You have the right to be tested for HIV/AIDS without your parent’s permission.

A doctor can tell your partner if you test positive, but only if your partner also has the same doctor, and the doctor believes that your partner is at risk of becoming infected, and the doctor believes that you won’t tell your partner on your own.

Treatment

If you are under 18, the doctor will have to get your parent’s permission to treat you for HIV/AIDS, unless the doctor thinks you would not get treatment if your parents found out.

PrEP

You have the right to a prescription for PrEP, a medication which prevents the spread of HIV/AIDS, even if you are under the age of 18 if your doctor or the clinic believes you would not be able to get your parent’s permission for this medication.

BIRTH CONTROL

Can I get birth control services confidentially?

You can get birth control or emergency contraception (the morning after pill) in Connecticut at any age without your parent’s permission.

Emergency contraception (the morning after pill) is also a form of birth control. Some doctors or clinics may ask you to tell your parents before they will prescribe any type of birth control for you, but this isn’t required by law.

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