

# Fact Sheet: Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID)

## What is Pelvic Inflammatory Disease?

Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID) is an infection of the uterus, fallopian tubes and other reproductive organs.

## What are the symptoms?

Symptoms can range from none to severe and may include:

- Lower abdominal pain
- Abnormal discharge from vagina
- Burning or pain while peeing
- Fever
- Painful vaginal intercourse
- Irregular menstruation or periods

## How is it spread?

PID occurs when bacteria move upward from a woman's vagina or cervix into the uterus and/or fallopian tubes. Gonorrhea and Chlamydia are the most common bacteria that cause PID.

## How is it treated?

PID is treated with a course of antibiotics.

### It is very important that you:

- Take all medicines as prescribed even if you start to feel better.
- Inform all sex partners that you have PID and encourage them to be tested and treated.
- Inform your health care provider if you think that you may be pregnant before taking any medications. PID can be safely treated during pregnancy.
- Stop all sexual activity until treatment is completed.

## How is it prevented?

- **Don't have sex.** You cannot give or get a sexually transmitted disease (STD) if there is no contact with the penis, vagina, mouth or anus.
- **Limit your number of sexual partners.** The more people you have sex with, the greater the chance of getting an STD.
- **If you choose to have sex, be prepared.** Have condoms with a water-based lubricant on hand and use a new condom every time you have sex.
- **Have regular exams if you are sexually active.** If you think you have an STD, get tested. Ask your partner(s) to get tested.
- **Remember: a Pap smear is not a test for STDs.** Ask to be tested if you are at risk.
- **Telling your partner.** Tell anyone you have had sex with that they need to be tested.

*This fact sheet is for information only and is not meant to be used for self -diagnosis or as a substitute for consultation with a health care provider. For more information call your health care provider or call Washtenaw County Public Health at 734-544-6700.*