

# ***Pelvic Inflammatory Disease***

## ***What Is Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID)?***

- PID is a very serious generalized infection in the woman's reproductive system (e.g. uterus, fallopian tubes, cervix, ovaries).
- It can be caused by different bacteria. Some are the same bacteria that cause other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) like Chlamydia.

## ***How Do I Get PID?***

- If you don't get treated for an infection or an STI like Chlamydia.
- Sometimes an intrauterine device (IUD) in place can increase the risk, especially if you have an infection.

## ***How Do I Know If I Have PID?***

- Severe pain in the pelvic area (lower stomach).
- May feel like a bladder infection, appendicitis, or cramps.
- Unusual pain during intercourse or during menstrual period.
- Abnormal vaginal discharge.
- Fever or chills.
- Some women do not have any symptoms.

## ***How Do I Get Tested?***

- Go to your family doctor, STD or Family Planning Clinic.
- A doctor will do a pelvic examination.
- A vaginal swab or urine sample will be taken and sent to the lab.

## ***How Do You Treat PID?***

- PID is curable if you take antibiotics.
- Return to your doctor for check ups during and after treatment.
- Your partner(s) will also need to be tested for STIs and treated with antibiotics if needed.

## ***What If I Don't Treat The Infection?***

- You may have to go to the hospital because of the severe pain and infection.
- Often there is scarring in the pelvic organs (ovaries, fallopian tubes, bowel, bladder) that can cause chronic pain, infertility or risk for tubal pregnancy.

## ***How Can I Prevent Getting PID?***

- Abstinence (not having sex) may be your best choice.
- Get prompt treatment if you have an infection.
- Practice “**Safer Sex**”. Always use condoms!
- Limit the number of sexual partners you have.
- Avoid sex with an infected person.
- Ask your partner about their sexual history
- Get education, guidance and support.



## ***For More Information Call:***

**Sexual and Reproductive Health**

**944-7115**

### **Family Planning Clinics**

- |                   |                               |                 |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| • <b>Downtown</b> | <b>323-7th Ave SE</b>         | <b>944-7111</b> |
| • <b>South</b>    | <b>31 Sunpark Plaza SE</b>    | <b>943-9510</b> |
| • <b>Sunridge</b> | <b>406, 2675-36 Street NE</b> | <b>944-7666</b> |
| <b>STD Clinic</b> | <b>404, 906-8th Ave SW</b>    | <b>944-7575</b> |