

# Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID)



**HEALTH**  
DEPARTMENT  
*Caring today for a healthy tomorrow*

## **Facts:**

- PID occurs when bacteria from an infection in the vagina spreads up into a woman's uterus (womb), fallopian tubes and ovaries.
- Infection most commonly caused by Chlamydia and Gonorrhea – infections you get by having sex with someone who is infected. Other bacteria can also cause PID.
- It can take several days to several months after getting an infection for symptoms to show up.
- PID happens in women only, but the bacteria that causes it, can be in men and can be passed back and forth between sexual partners.
- **If a woman gets medication PID can be cured.**

## **Symptoms:**

- **Female:** New or different discharge from vagina, urinating (peeing) often, pain with urinating, pain in lower belly, pain with vaginal sex, changes in bleeding/period, fever or chills, nausea, vomiting.
- Many women have no symptoms with PID.**

## **Complications:**

- Women may no longer be able to have children.
- Can be passed from a mother to her baby during childbirth

## **Plan:**

- Finish ALL the medicine given: \_\_\_\_\_
- **DO NOT SHARE YOUR MEDICINE WITH YOUR PARTNER!** The amount given to you is only enough to cure your infection.
- Give nurse \_\_\_\_\_ a follow-up call at 632-7171 on \_\_\_\_\_ to talk about how your medication is working and answer any questions.
- Go to an emergency room if your symptoms do not get better or get worse.

## **Prevention/Protection:**

- Have all your partners tested and treated. If they are not cured, they can pass it back to you or to others.
- Abstain from having sex with your partner(s). Discover and explore other ways to express your sexual self that don't include vaginal, anal or oral sex.
- Only have sex with a partner who only has sex with you. To reduce the chances of getting an infection when you have more than one partner, use condoms and get tested before having sex with a new partner.
- Limit your number of sex partners - the more partners you have, the higher your risk for getting an infection.
- Use condoms (rubbers) and dental dams every time you have vaginal, oral and anal sex.
- Alcohol and drugs lower inhibitions (take your guard down.) If you are more likely to make different decisions for yourself when you have been drinking, you may want to drink less or be sure to have condoms with you.

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616/632-7171 ♦ [www.accesskent.com/health](http://www.accesskent.com/health)

*This fact sheet is for information only and is not meant to be used for self-diagnosis or as a substitute for talking with a health care provider. If you have any questions about PID or think you may have it, call your health care provider*