Guideline: Prevention of Pregnancy in Adolescents 12-17 Years

Released: May 2018

This alert provides a summary of updated recommendations only. Refer to the complete guideline for all recommendations and level of evidence.

Updated recommendations include:

Eligible Population
Males and females 12-17 Years

Assessment for risk of pregnancy
Ask, at least annually, in a way that establishes trust:
- Sexual activity, past pregnancy and outcome.
- Behaviors and factors that increase risk of pregnancy (e.g., alcohol and substance abuse, lack of life goals, low self-esteem, poor school performance, dating at an early age, history of sexual abuse, lack of parental support, living in communities with low levels of education and income).
- Introduce and discuss Planning for Pregnancy/preconception health.
- Encourage teenager to identify a supportive adult for adhoc issues.

Further assessment for at risk patients
- Consistent use of both birth control and sexually transmitted infection (STI) protection.
- Intent to conceive or father a child.

Interventions to prevent pregnancy
Assist patients in preventing pregnancy by:
- Developing a risk reduction plan based on patient’s short- and long-term goals.

Interventions to engage parents
- Encourage the teenager to identify a supportive adult in their environment, for ongoing conversation.