Health Advisory on Congenital Syphilis Prevention

To: San Bernardino County Providers and Hospital Maternity Personnel:

The California Department of Public Health continues to report statewide increases of syphilis among women of childbearing age (12-44 years) as well as congenital syphilis resulting from non/inadequate treatment.

San Bernardino County has been disproportionately impacted by congenital syphilis with the number of reported cases increasing by 400% from 2014 to 2016.

Prevention of Congenital Syphilis is an urgent Public Health matter.

With early diagnosis and treatment of pregnant women, congenital syphilis and its complications can be prevented.

**Recommendations for all Clinicians:**

1. Screen all pregnant women for syphilis at the first prenatal visit with RPR and TPPA.
2. Conduct an additional syphilis screening in the third trimester of pregnancy at 28-32 weeks.
3. Test any woman who delivers a stillborn infant for syphilis.

Remember to treat syphilis in pregnant women as soon as infection is identified. Pregnant women should be treated with a penicillin regimen appropriate for their stage of infection. If a pregnant woman is allergic to penicillin, she must be de-sensitized prior to treatment with penicillin. It is important to also treat all partners to avoid re-infection.

All suspected cases of syphilis must be reported within one working day to the San Bernardino Public Health Department as required by state law (Title 17 CCR §2500, §2593, §2641.5-2643.20 and §2800-2812). To report a Syphilis case, fax (909) 387-6377 or call the Communicable Disease Section at 1-800-722-4794.

For more information about Syphilis, STDs or STD Treatment Guidelines visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention page.

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