

**Program Element 10 (STD)**  
**Syphilis set payment per case funding model**  
**Frequently Asked Question (FAQs)**

**1. Is there currently funding being distributed to LPHAs through PE10?**

No funds are currently provided to LPHAs through program element 10 except for some STD special needs funding which every LPHA is welcome to apply for (see question 9). The program element instead encompasses resources delivered to each LPHA “in-kind” including STD medications, condoms and lubricant, and subsidized STD lab screenings through the Oregon State Public Health Lab.

**2. Why are you using a fee-for-service model as opposed to a funding formula?**

The set payment per-case (fee-for-service) model most effectively ensures needed resources are reaching LPHAs with current syphilis case burden and aligns with the funding principles for state and local public health outlined by the Public Health Advisory Board.

**3. How did you determine how much funding to allocate per case for this model?**

Historical incidence for the past three years was reviewed alongside guidance from the CDC STD cooperative agreement which will provide most of the funding for this model. Prevention of congenital syphilis is identified as the highest priority of the cooperative agreement and provision of partner services to pregnant women and women of childbearing age and their male partners is called out as a specific deliverable. The higher amount of funding for cases in pregnant women and women of childbearing age is due to the added time and amount of additional resources these cases often require.

**4. How and when will these funds be disbursed?**

Funds will be disbursed using a quarterly invoice system similar to the one used by the TB program. Beginning in July 2019, the STD program will generate and provide each LPHA with an invoice on a quarterly basis listing the number of syphilis cases for which the STD program can be billed. The invoice will be sent to each LPHA at the conclusion of each quarter and the LPHA will then be required to review and return the invoice to the STD program within 30 days for payment.

**5. Will there be new reporting requirements?**

No. There will be no monthly E&R reporting required. Additionally, there will be no additional case reporting and investigation requirements beyond what is currently outlined in the syphilis investigative guidelines and program element. These requirements include documentation of key demographic, clinical, and risk variables as well as documentation of partner elicitation and follow-up.

**6. Will you provide funding retroactively (e.g. for cases in the first part of 2019)?**

No. Funds will be only provided for cases with an ‘LHD report date’ in Orpheus beginning July 1, 2019.

**7. Which LPHA will get ‘credit’ for a syphilis case in instances where the case lives in one county but received services in another?**

Only the LPHA in which the case resided at the time of diagnosis will be eligible for reimbursement.

**8. Will these funds fluctuate year-to-year?**

We will endeavor to ensure funds stay consistent year-to-year, however, funding is subject to change at any time due to availability of federal and state funds or changes in federal cooperative agreement deliverables.

**9. We don't have much syphilis in my county, but we have a lot of gonorrhea. What resources are available?**

The STD program offers special needs funding for any LPHA which is experiencing many STD cases of any nature as well as STD cases that may be complex or require additional resources. Funding can also be used to support special one-time initiatives or projects to reduce STDs. LPHAs requesting the funds are asked to complete a short application and submit a line item budget. Information can be found at: <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASES/CONDITIONS/HIVSTDVIRALHEPATITIS/SEXUALLYTRANSMITTEDISEASE/Pages/Local-Public-Health-Department-Resources.aspx>

**10. Who can I contact if I have more questions?**

For additional questions, please contact:

Josh Ferrer  
HIV/STD Prevention & Surveillance Manager  
[joshua.s.ferrer@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:joshua.s.ferrer@dhsosha.state.or.us)  
971-673-0149