Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID)
(most common causes: chlamydia or gonorrhea infection)

BACKGROUND

PID is an infection of the female reproductive organs (uterus, fallopian tubes, and ovaries). Many types of germs can cause PID, but chlamydia and gonorrhea are the most common.

SIGNs AND SYMPTOMs

- May be absent or mild
- Pain in lower abdomen
- Fever
- Abnormal vaginal bleeding or discharge
- Burning or pain during urination
- Pain during sex

TRANSMISSION

Germs that cause PID are spread by vaginal sex.

COMPLICATIONS

If left untreated, PID can cause:

- Ectopic (tubal) pregnancy
- Infertility
- Chronic pelvic pain

PREVENTION

- Avoiding vaginal, oral or anal sex is the best way to prevent STDs.
- Latex condoms, when used consistently and correctly, can reduce the risk of transmission of germs that cause PID.
- Always use latex condoms during vaginal and anal sex.
- Limit the number of sex partners.
- Get a test from a doctor or other medical provider if infection is suspected.

TESTING AND TREATMENT

- Get a test from a medical provider if infection is suspected.
- PID can be cured using medication prescribed by medical provider.

NOTE: A person can be re-infected after treatment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Minnesota Department of Health
STD and HIV Section
(651) 201-5414
www.health.state.mn.us/std

Minnesota Family Planning and STD Hotline
1-800-783-2287 Voice/TTY; (651) 645-9360 (Metro)
www.sexualhealthmn.org

American Social Health Association (ASHA)
www.ashastd.org

CDC National STD and AIDS Hotlines
1-800-CDC-INFO; 1-888-232-6348 TTY
www.cdc.gov/std