

## BOX 1. WHAT TO ASK PATIENTS ABOUT THEIR SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

*It's important that we discuss your sexual practices. I speak with all my patients about many different aspects of their lives.*

### Partners

- In the past 6 to 12 months, how many men have you had sex with? How many women?

### Practices

- In the past 6 to 12 months, have you had vaginal, oral, or anal sex?

### Protection Against STIs

- How do you keep yourself from getting an infection?
- Do you use condoms consistently? If not, with whom do you use condoms?
- Do you have any questions about any sexually transmitted infections?
- Have you ever been shown how to use condoms correctly?<sup>a</sup>

### Past History of STIs

- Have you ever been diagnosed with an STI, such as HIV, herpes, gonorrhea, chlamydia, syphilis, HPV, or trichomoniasis? When? How were you treated?

- Have you had any recurring symptoms or diagnoses?
- Has your current partner or any former partners ever been diagnosed or treated for an STI, including HIV?
- When was your last HIV test? Routine testing is recommended for everyone between 13 and 64 years of age.

### Prevention of Pregnancy

- Are you currently trying to conceive or father a child? Do you want to avoid pregnancy?
- Are you using contraception or practicing any form of birth control?
- Do you need any information on birth control or a referral?

### To assess HIV and viral hepatitis risk,<sup>b</sup> ask:

- Have you or any of your partners ever injected drugs?
- Have you or any of your partners exchanged money for sex?

Adapted from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *A Guide to Taking a Sexual History*. [www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/SexualHistory.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/SexualHistory.pdf).

<sup>a</sup>Refer patients to [www.plannedparenthood.org/health-topics/birth-control/condom-10187.htm](http://www.plannedparenthood.org/health-topics/birth-control/condom-10187.htm) for information about correct condom use.

<sup>b</sup>For adolescents and young adults, check the Citywide Immunization Registry for history of vaccination against hepatitis A and B (see **Box 4**).