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Partner Notification in Special Populations: The Canadian Perspective

Dr. Sue Pollock
Public Health Physician
Public Health Agency of Canada
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Overview of Presentation

- Key questions
- Methods
- Special populations
 - International
- Challenges
- Approaches

Key Questions

1. Which populations in Canada require special consideration with regards to partner notification?

2. With respect to partner notification in these special populations:
 - a. What are the challenges?
 - b. What approaches should be taken?

Methods

- Literature review conducted as part of the NCCID partner notification project
 - Librarian search
 - Title and abstract screening
 - Review of relevant literature

International Groups

- Canadian travellers
 - Business
 - Tourist/recreational
 - Military
- Migrants
- International visitors

International STI Partner Notification in Canada

Who is involved?

- Local public health
- Provinces/Territories
- Public Health Agency of Canada
 - Canada International Health Regulations National Focal Point Office

Partner Notification Challenges- Canadian Travellers

- Insufficient identifying information for international sexual contacts
- Contacting public health in other countries
- Differing country approaches to STI partner notification
- No information on follow-up of international contacts by home countries

Partner Notification Challenges- Migrants

- Mobile population
- Barriers to accessing health care
- Language
- Stigma
- Fear

Approaches

- Unique role of Canada IHR Office in facilitating international communications
- Canada-USA collaboration to create contact lists of STI public health directors for states/provinces
- Maintain current list of international STI public health contacts and their policies on STI partner notification
- Cultural sensitivity

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