

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends screening all women at risk for gonorrhea including women with previous gonorrhea infection, other STIs, multiple sex partners with inconsistent condom use, and those engaged in commercial sex work and drug use ([Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2014b](#)). Manifestations, treatment, and nursing considerations of gonorrhea are listed in [Table 16-2](#).

Syphilis is caused by *Treponema pallidum*, a motile spirochete. Transmission occurs by entry through microscopic abrasions in the subcutaneous tissue, kissing, biting, or oral-genital sex. Syphilis is a complex disease that can lead to serious systematic disease and even death when untreated. Manifestations, treatment, and nursing considerations of syphilis are listed in [Table 16-2](#).

### **Sexually Transmitted Protozoa Infections**

*Trichomonas vaginalis* is a common cause of vaginal infections and is almost always transmitted as an STI. Trichomoniasis is caused by *T. vaginalis*, an anaerobic, one-celled protozoan with characteristic flagella. Manifestations, treatment, and nursing considerations of trichomoniasis are listed in [Table 16-2](#).

### **Sexually Transmitted Viral Infections**

Human papillomavirus (HPV) infection is the most common viral STI seen in ambulatory health care settings. An estimated 20 million Americans are infected with HPV, and about 6.2 million new infections occur every year ([Eaton, Kann, Kinchen, et al, 2012](#)). HPV, a double-strand DNA virus, has more than 100 strains with 40 strains found in the genital area that can be sexually transmitted ([Bellia-Weiss, Parsons, Sebach, et al, 2013](#)). HPV can be classified as low or high risk with low risk types (HPV 6 and HPV 11) not linked to cancer and high risk types (HPV 16 and HPV 18) linked to 80% of anal squamous cell cancers, 70% of cervical cancers, and 50% of all penile cancers ([Bellia-Weiss, Parsons, Sebach, et al, 2013](#)).

Herpes simplex virus (HSV) is caused by two different antigen subtypes: HSV type 1 (HSV-1) and HSV type 2 (HSV-2). HSV-1 is commonly associated with gingivostomatitis and oral labial lesions (fever blisters), whereas HSV-2 is transmitted sexually and characterized with genital lesions. It is estimated that about 50 million people in the United States are infected with HSV-2