

Standing Orders for Extragenital STI Testing

What are standing orders?

Non-patient specific standing orders allow non-physicians, like nurses, to sign off on tests—in this case, sexually transmitted infection screening. “Standing orders . . . allow for an expanded scope of practice for nurses, MAs, and health educators.” —[Source](#), NACCHO

“Non-Patient Specific Standing Orders are written instructions, orders, rules, regulations, or procedures prepared by a physician and designed for a patient population with specific preventative care or screening needs. Standing Orders are distinct from specific orders written for a particular patient.” —[Source](#), CHCANYS

“Standing orders are the signed instructions of a licensed physician which outline the medical assessment, appropriate testing, and treatment that a clinician may perform or deliver on behalf of the physician. In some states, non-physicians are authorized to perform assessments and prescribe medications independently. Standing orders also serve to standardize the clinical care practiced by all clinicians.” —[Source](#), CDC

How does my clinic site set up a standing order?



STATE LAWS

State laws differ when it comes to licensing and scopes of work; these need to be reviewed and understood before implementing a standing order.



UNION RULES

Nursing unions and others may have rules around scopes of work that will need to be reviewed before attempting to implement a standing order.



INSTITUTION GUIDELINES

Ensure your institution would allow standing orders before moving forward with developing a standing order for STI screening.



ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS

Standing orders are often integrated into EMRs. This process will need to be reviewed before moving forward with implementing a standing order for STI screening.

Information about and Examples of Standing Orders

1. [Sample standing order](#) for STI screening from Community Health Care Association of New York State (CHCANYS), complying with New York State law
2. [Sample standing order](#) for STI screening from North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, complying with North Carolina state law
3. [NACCHO Express Testing Guide](#)—includes information about standing orders