

## **ABSTRACT : DR. FOONG BOON BEE**

### Management of Sexually Transmitted Infections

Sexually transmitted infections remain a major public health issue world-wide. There are over 500 million new cases annually of the following STI: syphilis, gonorrhoea, trichomoniasis and Chlamydia trachomatis genital infection. About 35% of the patients have coinfection and sexually transmitted infections enhance HIV transmission.

The prevalence of some viral STIs is similarly high compared to bacterial STIs, with an estimated 417 million people infected with herpes simplex virus type 2 (HSV-2) and about 291 million women harbouring human papillomavirus (HPV) at any point in time.

The WHO global health sector strategy on sexually transmitted infections, 2016–2021, endorsed by the World Health Assembly in 2016, aims to eliminate STIs as a public health threat by 2030.

The key pillars to eliminate STIs are to prevent people from being infected and to provide treatment and care for infected people to avoid further transmitting STIs to other people. The strategy makes a strong case for expanding the provision of high-quality STI prevention and care more widely into the areas of primary health care, sexual and reproductive health and HIV prevention and care services.

Syndromic management is widely used to manage people with symptoms of STIs. In most resource-limited settings, the syndromic management flow charts are still the standard of care where laboratory diagnosis is not available or, where it is available, getting results take several days.

Although the STI syndromic approach has some shortcomings, it remains an essential component of managing people with symptoms of STIs.