

# Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Contact Tracing

## What?

Sexually transmitted disease (STD) contact tracing is the notification of sexual partner(s) of individuals diagnosed with an STD including HIV/AIDS. The partner(s) is told that they may have been exposed to a STD and should be tested and/or treated. This is a core public health duty carried out by health departments across the United States and can be anonymous or confidential; a sexual partner(s) is not told who referred them.

## Why?

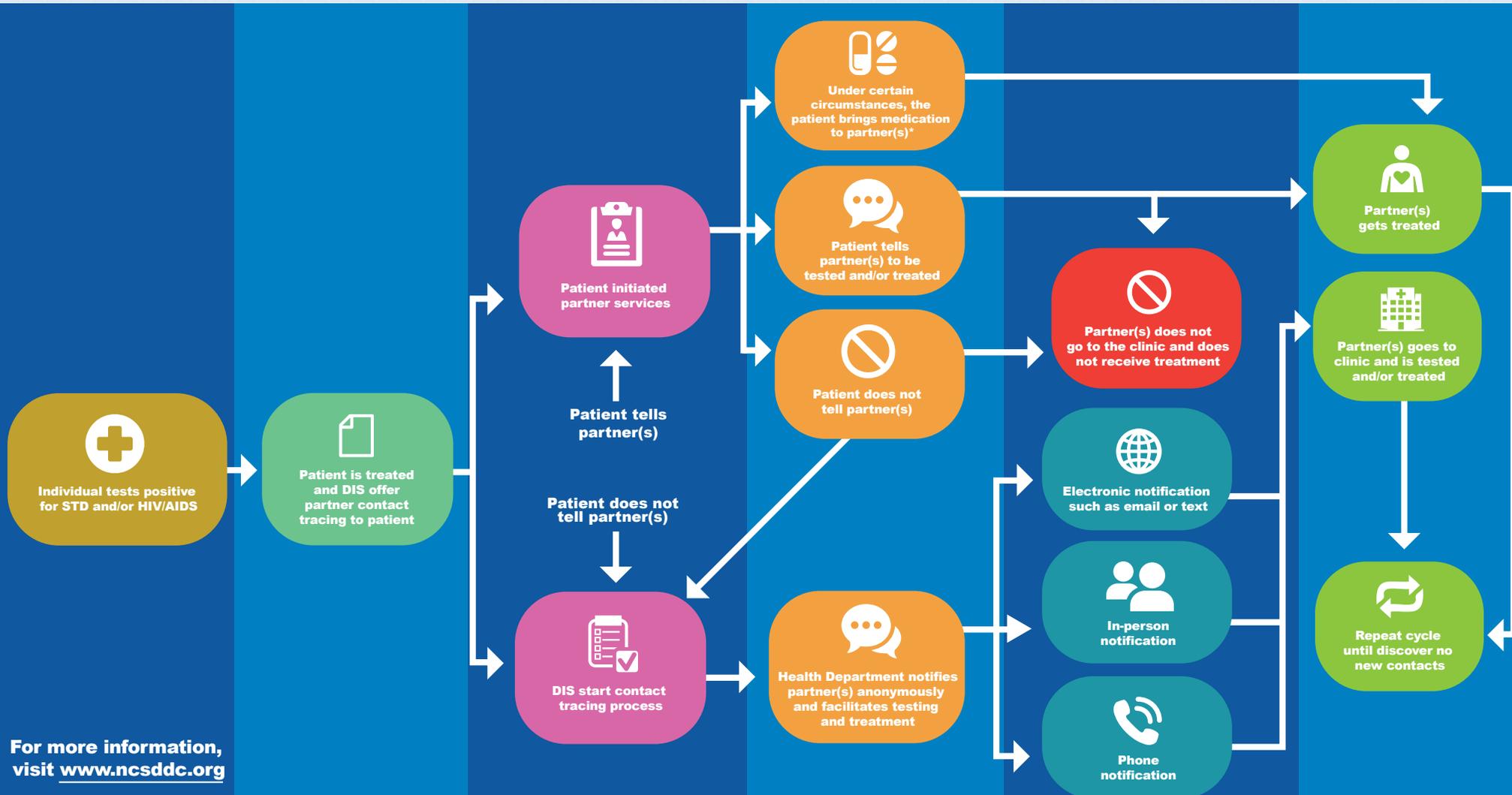
- Health departments can make sure patients and partner(s) get the right tests and treatments
- Treating partners can prevent reinfection and prevent further disease transmission and complications.
- Contact tracing can decrease the overall number of STDs in the community

## Who?

Disease intervention specialists (DIS) are often the health department employees performing this role although other staff and community based organizations may as well! DIS conduct interviews with STD patients to obtain information on sexual partner(s). DIS are the backbone of state and local health departments and serve the most critical role in the reporting and controlling the spread of STDs and HIV, as well as, hepatitis and tuberculosis.



**National Coalition  
of STD Directors**



For more information, visit [www.ncsddc.org](http://www.ncsddc.org)