

public affairs update

OMG, LOL, BRB...introducing GYT!

Did you know that by the age of 25, one in two young people will contract a sexually transmitted infection (STI)? Spread the word that it's time to take control and Get Yourself Tested!! PPFA launched GYT '09 (Get Yourself Tested) on April 1st. GYT '09 is a public awareness campaign sponsored by Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA), MTV, and the Kaiser Family Foundation that will be held through the month of April — National STD Awareness Month. It is intended to help young people make responsible decisions about their sexual health. The campaign was launched on April 1 with the world premiere of Pedro. This MTV film celebrates the life of Pedro Zamora, an HIV-positive Real World cast member who died of AIDS-related complications in 1994.

PPSP Health Centers are all participating centers in the GYT '09 campaign but are providing testing services at the same sliding scale used year round. PPSP is reaching out to the community, college campuses, and other groups to promote GYT with stickers, buttons, and flyers directing individuals to the GYT09.org website where they can find the nearest testing location.

In an effort to make a final push for the campaign, PPSP will be hosting a visibility event on Broad Street on April 28th at 5:15pm. Join us as we get the word out about GYT.

Upcoming Events: Mark your Calendars!

- Patient Escort Training: 1144 Locust Street, Philadelphia
April 22nd - 6:00-8:00pm - RSVP to 215-351-5567
- GYT Visibility at Broad Street: Meet at 1144 Locust Street then walk over
April 28th - 5:15pm - RSVP to 215-351-5585
- Brown Bag Lunch: Movie Screening: "3 Girls I Know"
April 29th -12:00pm-1:30pm - RSVP to 215-351-5580

For more information about these or other PPSP events, contact the External Affairs Department at: 215.351.5585 or by email at: externalaffairs@ppsp.org.

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visit www.ppsp.org

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National Update:

Affordable Birth Control is Finally FIXED!!

Four years after an "error" was made in the 2005 Deficit Reduction Act by Congress that caused birth control prices to sky rocket for college campus health centers, safety-net providers, and community health centers, affordable birth control has finally been restored. The 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act includes the language to once again permit pharmaceutical companies to offer nominally priced drugs to all Planned Parenthood health centers and other safety-net providers.

"We applaud Congress for righting a wrong that has restricted access to basic but critical preventive health care services, and left millions of women at risk of unintended pregnancy," said Cecile Richards, president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America. "The passing of today's legislation is a victory for women's health and especially for women who have struggled to afford the rising costs of basic contraception in these tough economic times."

Obama Takes Steps to Rescind HHS Regulation

On March 10th, the Obama Administration issued a notice and comment rulemaking to fully rescind the Bush Administration's HHS midnight regulation that undermines patients' access to basic health care services and information. The proposal to rescind the HHS midnight regulation was an important step forward for Planned Parenthood and our patients. The comment period ended on April 9th and HHS will now review all comments collected for a period of 30 days. The process could take up to 6 months to complete.

State Update:

PPSP Advocating for Comprehensive Sex Ed

On March 31st, PPSP participated in a very successful Lobby Day with Pennsylvanians for Responsible Sex Education (PARSE) Coalition members educating state legislators about the importance of comprehensive sex education. PARSE is promoting two bills, the Healthy Youth Act and the Notice Home Act, that would expand sexuality education in Pennsylvania and increase parental awareness with regards to their children's sexuality education. Both bills are expected to be introduced in late April.

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