Take A Sexual History Of All Patients

By Asking Who? How? What?

Having a conversation about your patient’s sexual history gives you, as a provider, a complete picture of your patient’s sexual health. It allows you to identify patients at risk for STDs and creates opportunities to educate them on strategies to reduce their risk of infection.

Who?
- Number of partners in the past year
- Gender
- Steady and/or casual partners
- Partner’s risk factors (e.g. multiple sex partners, incarcerated, HIV+)

How?
- Types of sex (e.g. vaginal, oral, anal)
- Sex while under the influence of drugs and alcohol

What?
- Methods to protect yourself from STDs/HIV
- Methods to prevent pregnancy
- Previous history of STDs

Tips For Having Conversations About Sexual History
- Emphasize this is routine for all patients
- Ensure confidentiality
- Be non-judgmental (verbal and non-verbal)
- Make it conversational (ask open-ended questions)