Health Equity Assessment of a Clinical Guideline for Sexually Transmitted Infections Nursing Practice.

**Background (Optional):**
Sexually transmitted infections (STI) are disproportionately distributed among the public. Populations most affected by STI experience health inequities that intensify STI burden. Public Health Nurses who practice within the full scope of STI reproductive health in British Columbia (BC), must use the College of Registered Nurses of BC STI Assessment Decision Support Tool (DST) in delivery of STI care.

**Objectives:**
As part of the Equity Lens in Public Health (ELPH) research project, a health equity assessment of the STI Assessment DST; the foundational nursing guideline for mandatory use by RNs practicing full scope STI care, was undertaken to determine the extent to which health equity is addressed in the DST.

**Target Groups:**
Public Health Nurses practicing full scope of STI care  
STI guidelines developers  
Populations who experience health inequities and a resultant higher burden of STI

**Activities:**
Comprehensive literature review focused on health equity, STI, nursing and clinical practice guidelines  
Review of thirty five health equity tools from the ELPH inventory to determine an appropriate health tool  
Application of a Health Equity tool to assess the STI DST for health equity

**Deliverables:**
Literature review findings highlighted the importance of theoretical underpinning for selecting an appropriate health equity tool, accurate health equity metrics, geographical/social barriers to STI health services, and community level intervention/participation in guidelines development to ameliorate sexual health inequities experienced by affected populations

**What are the implications of your practice or policy on research?**
Recommendations for enhancing health equity support further community based intervention and research and include the following: integrating population STI health determinants into the guideline, establishing community advisories for participation in guidelines development/review, integrating provincially available resources and recommending review of local STI burden to scale up services appropriately for affected populations.