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Key Points

- Encourage all sexually active young people under 25 years of age to participate in the National Chlamydia Screening Programme
- If the young person has symptoms, they need clinical assessment. Department of Genitourinary Medicine is often the best service for assessment of people with symptoms
- Seek urgent advice for young people with significant genital pain
- Screening for heterosexual young people who do not have symptoms is available at Sheffield Contraception & Sexual Health Service (SCaSH) at Central Health Clinic or at GUM
- Men who have sex with men should go to GUM for screening
- Anyone who has been raped or sexually assaulted should be referred to SARC via police or GUM (See Section 11).



Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)

The numbers of people being diagnosed with sexually transmitted infections (STIs) is rising both nationally and within Sheffield. Although consistent condom use greatly reduces the risk of transmission of STIs, anyone who has had any sexual contact may have been exposed to a variety of STIs. Chlamydia is the commonest infection diagnosed in under-25 year olds.

Early detection of sexually transmitted infection is beneficial to the individual as it reduces their risk of developing complications and long term health problems. A reduction of the number of undiagnosed infections is beneficial to the community as a whole. Strategies to reduce the individual's, and the community's, risk of ill health from STIs include:

- Reduction in numbers of partners
- Avoiding concurrent relationships (more than one regular sexual partner in the same time period)
- Consistent and correct condom use
- Screening of both partners for STIs prior to starting a new relationship
- Seeking medical attention promptly if the young person experiences any genital symptoms

Many young people find it embarrassing to talk about their sexual health and STIs and think that going to get help will be too scary or do not understand what the tests involve. Some of these barriers can be addressed if those working with young people are able to explain how testing and treatment works, how their confidentiality is kept and what will happen if they need further help and support after the tests. Millions of people have STI checks every year and more and more people are realising that having sexual health checks is as normal and as important as any other routine health check. Like any other health problem, with our sexual health early treatment cuts down the risk of any long-term effects.



The Basic Facts

Why are some infections called Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) or Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)?

STIs are STIs because they are rather fragile organisms that require quite particular conditions in which to live. They need the right temperature, moistness, acidity and type of human skin or tissue in which to grow. They need the conditions found in the genitals to live and they don't survive well when they are out of their ideal environment. Sex (especially without a condom) provides the chance for the organism to move from one ideal environment to a new ideal environment (that just happens to have a person attached to it!).

STIs can be grouped as follows:

- **Bacteria and protzoa** - these infections can be eradicated using antibiotics. Infections in this group include Chlamydia, Gonorrhoea, Trichomonas and Syphilis
- **Viruses which infect genital skin** - these are common infections which are mainly controlled by the immune system. Medication is used to treat the symptoms of the infection. Infections in this group include Human Papilloma Virus (HPV or warts), Molluscum Contageosum and Herpes Simplex Virus (genital herpes)
- **Blood Born Viruses** - infections which circulate in the bloodstream but can be transmitted by sexual contact. Infections in this group include HIV and Hepatitis B. Hepatitis C can sometimes be transmitted sexually but sharing of injecting equipment is a much more common means of transmission of Hepatitis C.
- **Skin parasites** - these infestations are transmitted during close physical contact. This means that they can be transmitted without penetrative sex having occurred and also during sex when a condom has been used. They can be eradicated using specific treatment in the form of lotions or creams. Infections in this group include pubic lice (crabs) and scabies.



STIs do not always cause symptoms and, in fact, many infections can be present for months or years with no symptoms. Chlamydia is an example of a common STI which usually causes no symptoms. HIV is an example of a less common but very serious STI which generally causes no symptoms at all until an advanced stage.

For this reason, sexually active young people should be encouraged to participate in screening for STIs. This is especially important if they start a new sexual relationship or have had a short term or one off encounter.

Whenever a patient is diagnosed with an STI it is essential that their current and recent partner(s) are seen and offered testing and treatment. The partner can be infected without any symptoms and would therefore be at risk of long term complications if not tested and treated. Also, the infection would be likely to recur in the original patient.

Genital symptoms can be caused by a variety of conditions which are not sexually transmitted and may not be caused by infection. For example, Candidiasis (thrush) and Bacterial Vaginosis cause increased discharge in women but are not classed as STIs. Men can experience pain and itch under the foreskin as a result of thrush or failure to wash under the foreskin.

As a result of self examination and self exploration, young people can sometimes be concerned about lumps and bumps on the genital skin which are entirely normal anatomical features. Medical examination can be very reassuring in this situation.

It is impossible to tell whether the symptoms result from an STI or another condition without medical assessment and investigations.

Any young person complaining of genital pain, discharge, lumps or ulcers should be supported to seek medical attention. The urgency with which attention should be sought depends on the type and severity of the symptom but any young person complaining of genital pain should be encouraged to seek medical advice as soon as possible.



STIs and Pregnancy

If a young woman has an STI while she is pregnant, this could infect her baby either inside the womb or during the birth. Most sexually transmitted infections can be treated easily during pregnancy without harming the baby. Some infections such as genital warts can get worse during pregnancy.

Most women will be offered tests for a range of STIs during the 16th week of their pregnancy. These tests include Syphilis, Hepatitis and HIV. This is to reduce the chance of their baby getting an infection. Some of the problems STIs can cause for their baby are miscarriage, abnormalities, eye infections and lumps in the throat or genitals of the baby. Unless they are diagnosed in pregnancy, so that the mother and baby can receive the correct treatment, viruses such as HIV and Hepatitis can be passed on to the baby.



About Getting Tested for STIs

GUM (Department of Genito-Urinary Medicine)

The best place to get tests for sexually transmitted infections is the GUM clinic. GUM stand for Genito-Urinary Medicine and these are specialist centres dealing with a range of infections and problems of the genitals and urinary tract. This means that lots of people go to GUM clinics who do not have STIs as well as people who do, and therefore no one will know what you are going there for.

A comprehensive service for diagnosis and management of STIs and all other conditions affecting the genital is provided by the GUM clinic at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital.

**Sheffield GUM Clinic is on B Road at the Hallamshire Hospital
(Tel: 0114 276 6928)**

Out of hours advice is available by phoning the Royal Hallamshire Hospital switchboard (Tel: 0114 271 1900) and ask for GUM doctor on call.

Opening Times by Appointment are:
Mon & Fri 9am – 12.45pm, 2pm – 4.30pm
Tues & Thurs 9am – 12.45pm, 2pm – 7pm
Wed 9am – 12 noon
Sat (Emergencies) 9am – 12 noon

Same Day HIV Testing on Tuesdays by Appointment.

Sheffield GUM service operates an appointment system. All patients will be offered and appointment within 48 hours of contacting the department. Please remember that it may help young people if you can make the appointment for them.

If the young person has symptoms, contact the department and they will usually be seen as an extra patient on the same day.

If the young person has no symptoms but wants a sexual health check after a sexual encounter about which they are worried, it is usually best to defer the appointment until 2 weeks after the episode.



If the young person has any symptoms of infection, or if symptoms develop, they should be advised to attend GUM as soon as possible. It is best if they let the clinic know they have symptoms at the time of booking.

The GUM clinic offers:

- Confidential advice
- Testing for Infections
- Free treatment of infections and other genital conditions
- Free condoms and lube.
- Cervical Smear Tests
- HIV testing
- Information on Sexual Health
- Care for people with HIV and AIDS
- Free vaccinations for Hepatitis A & B

At the clinic the young person can see a doctor and/ or a nurse about getting tests for infections, vaccinations and treatment for infections and other problems.

The service also has Health Advisors who can give advice, counselling and support about a range of issues relating to sexual health. These issues may include:

- Information and advice about having a healthy sex life.
- Confidential ways of telling your sexual partners that they may have an infection
- Things on your mind about your sex life or your relationships
- Whether or not to use condoms with your regular partner
- Rape or sexual assault (either recently or a long time ago)
- Issues around selling sex
- Loss of sex drive
- Being HIV positive
- Choices and problems around taking HIV treatments

A choice of either male or female staff can be requested if this helps the young person feel more comfortable.

Health Advisors will also see couples who want to talk things through together. Anyone can see a Health Adviser without having to see a doctor first.



SCaSH (Sheffield Contraception and Sexual Health Service)

Screening for STIs is available at the Sheffield Contraception & Sexual Health Service (SCaSH) at Central Health Clinic. This is for young people who **do not have any symptoms** (such as discharge, lumps or pain). People with symptoms are much better advised to attend GUM.

SCaSH can provide the full range of screening tests for heterosexual young people.

Central Health Clinic, 1 Mulberry St S1 2PJ, is open without appointment

Drop In Clinic (any age):

08.30am - 11am and 12.30pm - 3pm Monday to Friday

Youth Clinic (for under 20 year olds):

Monday to Thursday 3.30pm - 6pm

Saturday 11am - 1pm

There is also a Youth clinic at Firth Park Clinic Thursday 3.30pm - 6pm

For technical reasons, all the tests which may be relevant to young **men who have sex with men** are not available at Central Health Clinic. Young men who have sex with men should seek screening at **GUM**.



Visiting GUM

The first visit will usually take around 1 hour. After your first visit, other visits should be shorter

If the young person has not been to the clinic before they will need to register with reception. Usually they will do this away from other patients and they will give them information about what tests will be done and about their confidentiality.

They will then be shown to a waiting room. These are separate for men and for women although if they want a partner or friend of the opposite sex to wait with them they can ask the staff about this.

They will usually see a doctor or nurse first to talk about the reason for their clinic visit. If they are going for tests they will go into the room where the tests are done. After the tests they will be free to leave or asked to go back in the waiting area while some of their results are prepared. All young people under 18 will be offered the chance to speak to a health visitor during their visit.

Each patient will be given a clinic number at their first visit and all their records will be kept against this number so that no one outside the clinic can identify them from their records. They will need to remember this number for future visits or if they telephone the clinic. If they forget their clinic number, the clinic staff can find it by using their name and date of birth.

GUM services have to be confidential by law. All records and test results have to stay within the GUM department where they are marked only with the clinic number. They will not be sent to other parts of the hospital or to a young person's own doctor. Results can be sent to the GP if this is what the young person wants and they request that the GP or another doctor is informed of their results.

If a doctor or nurse refers the young person to the GUM clinic in writing, the GUM clinic will write back to the referring doctor or nurse. These letters are usually brief and factual and will not go into great detail about the young person's clinic visit. The young person will be asked whether they want a copy of the letter.



In order to ensure the right tests, treatment and advice for a young person, the staff at GUM may need to ask them some personal questions. It may help young people to think about these and prepare their answers so that it doesn't feel so intrusive on the day. Possible questions are:

- When did you last have sex?
- Was it with a man or a woman?
- Was it a regular or casual partner?
- How many sexual partners have you had recently?
- What kind of sex did you have? (what you did)
- If you think you have an infection, what symptoms have you had and for how long?
- Are you allergic to any medicines?
- Are you taking any medicines at the moment?
- Have you ever had any sexually transmitted infections before?
- Have you had any illnesses in the past? Are you under the doctor regularly for anything? Have you been in hospital for an illness or operation?

Each young person will be offered a range of tests for different STIs. These may include swabs, urine tests and blood tests. Everyone is offered and encouraged to accept an HIV test. The HIV test can be done on a saliva sample if the person does not want a needle.

They can refuse to have any of the tests if they want to, although it may be worth talking to a health advisor about which infections they have been put at risk of developing, so they can make an informed decision about this. The health advisors will be happy to talk over any concerns they have about any of the tests.



Testing

Women will have swabs taken from inside the vagina and possibly from the opening of the water passage (depending on symptoms). A woman may also have her pelvic area examined for signs of pelvic inflammatory disease. A blood test for syphilis and HIV will be offered.

The penis and testicles will be examined. A swab will be taken from the penis only if a discharge is visible. The main testing method is a urine sample. A blood test for syphilis and HIV will be offered. Men should hold water for 4 hours if possible before their visit.

Swabs may also be taken from inside the anus if someone has had anal sex.

Although these tests may seem embarrassing and may be a little uncomfortable, it is important that the doctor has all the information about the sex they have had in order to ensure the best care for them.

Some preliminary results may be ready that day. The final results will be available in 1-2 weeks. Arrangements will be made for the young person to be contacted if any further treatment is needed (no news is good news). Patients can request a text with negative results. If they need a follow-up visit, they will get their results then.

Every young person, of any age should expect the best treatment from any GUM Clinic. They work to strict guidelines to provide the best care for all their patients. In any service young people have the right:

- To have their confidentiality respected and protected by all clinic staff
- To know the name of any member of staff treating them
- To have all the tests and any treatments explained to them in a way that they can understand
- To be told about the complaints procedure and to be able to complain if needed.
- To expect a written reply from any complaint.
- To ask to see a male/female doctor or nurse



- To take someone with them in to see the doctor, health advisor or while they are having tests done
- To be treated as an individual, with courtesy and respect no matter what their age, race, sexuality, HIV status or sexual activity
- To be seen within a reasonable time
- To be given information to take away which they can understand and which is relevant to their sexuality and sexual practice
- Not to be pressured into having any tests they don't want to

STI Screening at SCaSH

Full STI screening is also available at SCaSH for heterosexual young people who are asymptomatic.

These tests are non invasive and do not require a genital examination. Testing is available via a self taken vaginal swab or urine sample for chlamydia and gonorrhoea. Testing for HIV and syphilis requires a blood test.

Testing for Young Women

Young women requesting STI screening at SCaSH will initially be seen by a nurse or doctor who will ask them whether they wish to have full screening including a blood test for HIV or syphilis or whether they just want to have testing for gonorrhoea or chlamydia.

Full screening involves:

- Blood test for HIV and syphilis
- Self taken vaginal swab for gonorrhoea and chlamydia - the young woman will be given a swab test (like a long cotton bud) and be instructed to go to the toilet and take the test by placing the swab into the lower vagina (just inside the entrance to the vagina) and rubbing the swab against the vaginal wall for 15 seconds. The swab is then placed in a special holder. Most young women find this an easy and acceptable test
- Urine testing is also available to check for chlamydia, in women, but it does not pick up gonorrhoea so reliably and so a vaginal swab is better



Testing for Young Men

Young men requesting STI screening at SCaSH will initially be seen by a nurse or doctor who will ask them whether they wish to have full screening including a blood test for HIV or syphilis or whether they just want to have testing for gonorrhoea or chlamydia.

Full screening includes:

- Blood test for HIV and syphilis
- Urine testing for chlamydia and gonorrhoea



Tips for Young People - How to Avoid Picking up or Passing on an STI

- If you are starting a new relationship, it is a good idea for both people to be checked for STIs before starting to have sex.
- Get to know your partner first. This makes it easier to talk about using condoms/ shields and how to protect yourselves.
- If you have any concerns that you may have an STI (including cold sores on your lips) do not have sex until you have been tested and treated.
- Having routine check ups are the best way to make sure that you haven't got an infection.
- Barriers such as condoms or latex shields can help stop infections being passed from one person to another. Condoms should be used for penetrative sex (vaginal/anal) and giving oral sex to a man. Latex shields should be used for giving oral sex to women and rimming. If you do not have a latex shield you can cut a condom into a square and use that instead. Most people feel that they know how to use a condom, but most breakages are due to them not being put on properly.
- Sex toys like dildos can spread infections if more than one person uses them. It is a good idea to use a condom on them and swap it for a clean condom each time a different person uses it.
- Knowing how different infections are passed on is the best way to ensure what you are doing is safe. Some people may say that using a condom is no use, as it doesn't protect against all infections. This is not a good reason for not using condoms. Although some infections (pubic lice, herpes) can be passed on if the lice or sores are outside the area where the condom fits, using a condom correctly will help protect against most STIs including all the life threatening ones.
- You can pass on an infection while you are being treated for it. It is important to have the "all clear" from the clinic where you have been treated before you start having sex.



- You need to take all of the tablets given to you to properly clear an infection. The symptoms may stop after taking some of them but this does not mean that the infection has cleared.
- Clinics give you enough tablets to treat one person. Do not share your tablets with anyone else or neither of you will clear the infection.
- It is important to attend any follow up appointments at the clinic to ensure that your infection has cleared and to be sure that you have no further problems.
- Telling people who you have had sex with that you have an infection will give them the chance to get treated and stop the infection being passed to others. The GUM Clinic will help you do this if you want.
- Remember when sex is at the right time, with the right person it is a normal and healthy part of everyday life and should be enjoyed. To make sure you get the most enjoyment out of sex it is important to take the time to think about your health and protect yourself.



Quick Reference Guide to STIs and Other Genital Conditions

STIs Crib Sheet



STI	CAUSED BY	SYMPTOMS	COMPLICATIONS	CAUSED BY
Chlamydia	Bacteria	<p>If there are any symptoms they may include: (For Women) vaginal discharge; heavy or irregular periods; bleeding after sex, lower abdominal pain or pain during sex, (For Men) Discharge from the penis, pain and/or burning on passing urine, painful swelling of testicle.</p> <p>Men and women can get and eye infection.</p> <p>There are no symptoms in up to 60% of people or even more.</p>	<p>Left untreated may cause pelvic inflammatory disease and infertility in women as well as increasing their risk of ectopic pregnancy. May cause infertility in men.</p> <p>It can be transferred from the genitals to eyes on unwashed hands.</p> <p>In pregnancy it can carry a higher risk of ectopic pregnancy and premature delivery and can be passed onto the baby during delivery which, if untreated, can cause an eye infection or pneumonia.</p>	Single dose or short course of antibiotics.
Gonorrhoea	Bacteria	<p>If there are any symptoms they may include: (For Women) vaginal discharge; heavy or irregular periods; bleeding after sex, lower abdominal pain or pain during sex, (For Men) Discharge from the penis, pain and/or burning on passing urine, painful swelling of testicle.</p> <p>Men and women can get and eye infection.</p> <p>There are no symptoms in up to 60% of people or even more.</p>	<p>Left untreated may cause pelvic inflammatory disease and infertility in women as well as increasing their risk of ectopic pregnancy. May cause infertility in men.</p> <p>It can be transferred from the genitals to eyes on unwashed hands.</p> <p>In pregnancy it can carry a higher risk of ectopic pregnancy and premature delivery and can be passed onto the baby during delivery which, if untreated, can cause an eye infection or pneumonia.</p>	Single dose or short course of antibiotics.
Genital Warts	A virus	<p>Growth or warts around genitals, cervix or anus. These may take up to a year to appear.</p>	<p>Treatment is given to individual occurrences of warts, but they can re-occur.</p>	Usually a cream, otherwise they may be removed by 'freezing'.
Hepatitis B	A virus	<p>There may be no symptoms but usually they appear in stages starting with 'flu like' symptoms, nausea and diarrhoea progressing to jaundice (yellowing of the skin and/or whites of the eyes).</p>	<p>Usually takes several months to recover although 1 in 10 people will develop "Chronic" Hepatitis which will remain for life.</p>	<p>Vaccination against the Hepatitis B virus is available. Often no treatment apart from rest and healthy food but Interferon alpha injections can be used to treat chronic cases.</p>



STI	CAUSED BY	SYMPTOMS	COMPLICATIONS	CAUSED BY
Hepatitis C	A virus	May be none, but symptoms can appear in stages starting with 'flu like symptoms, nausea and sickness, weight loss progressing to jaundice (yellowing of the skin/whites of the eyes).	Hepatitis B can cause long term liver disease and even liver cancer. Hepatitis C can cause long term liver disease and liver cancer.	Treated with Interferon alpha and antivirals. No vaccination available.
Herpes	A virus	Small painful blisters or sores around genitals which heal; tingling or itching; burning on passing urine; 'flu like' symptoms.	A pregnant woman may infect her baby.	There is treatment for the 1st episode and frequent episodes.
HIV (Human Immuno-deficiency Syndrome)	A virus	Some people may have flu like symptoms but many people do not develop symptoms for a number of years, but most will go on to develop AIDS. (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).	People with a diagnosis of HIV/AIDS get serious infections and/or cancers.	Modern treatment for HIV infection is extremely effective in prolonging life and preventing ill health associated with immuno-deficiency.
Syphilis	Bacteria	May not be noticed but could include: any sore or ulcer on the genitals, any skin rash, any sores or unusual lesions within the mouth. Refer any young person with a genital ulcer to GUM.	Without treatment the infection remains present in the body, and later may cause permanent damage to vital organs.	A course of antibiotics.
Pubic Lice (crabs)	Small lice living in pubic hair. Spread by close contact between bodies especially during sexual intercourse.	Severe itching around genitals and small nits (eggs of the lice) on the pubic hair.	Can be transmitted through personal contact i.e. sharing bed linen and towels as well as through sexual contact.	Treatment is via a medicated shampoo or lotion available from GUM GPs or pharmacies. Calamine lotion can relieve the itching.
Trichomoniasis	A small parasite which infects the vagina and urethra.	Women may have a yellow or white itchy, smelly discharge, pain during sex, pain whilst urinating and soreness or inflammation of the vagina. Men are less likely to notice symptoms but may get a white discharge from the penis or pain when urinating.	Can be passed from a woman to her baby during delivery.	A course of tablets. Rarely re-occurs.



STI	CAUSED BY	SYMPTOMS	COMPLICATIONS	CAUSED BY
Thrush (Not a sexually transmitted) Usually an infection in women, men may acquire it if their partner has it.	A yeast called <i>Candida albicans</i> , often present on the skin.	In women symptoms may include soreness around the vagina and anus, a thick white discharge with a yeasty smell, pain during sex and while passing urine. For men symptoms may include irritation, redness or red patches under the foreskin or on the tip of the penis, thick discharge from the urethra, difficulty pulling back the foreskin and pain when passing urine.	Can cause long term complications for people who are HIV positive.	Women are given antifungal tablets by mouth or pessaries to insert into the vagina, and cream to reduce itching. Men are given the cream.
Bacterial Vaginosis (Not sexually transmitted infection)	A change in the acidity of the vagina disturbing the bacterial balance of the vagina.	A smelly (fishy) discharge often worse after sex.	May cause complications in pregnancy, such as premature labour.	Usually a course of tablets, occasionally a cream may be used.
Pelvic Inflammatory Disease	Caused by an infection, which passes through a woman's cervix into the pelvic cavity. Often linked to Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea.	Symptoms may not always be apparent straight away but may include severe abdominal pain, high temperature, pain during sex, nausea, discharge, weakness, bleeding between periods, heavy periods and a quickened pulse.	May cause scarring of the fallopian tubes resulting in infertility or increased risk of ectopic pregnancies.	Antibiotics.
Balanitis	Inflammation of the skin of the penis. Bacterial or yeast infection from poor hygiene or perfumed cleaning agents.	Symptoms only generally affect the head of the penis causing redness, irritation, discharge under the foreskin and inflammation of the foreskin and head of the penis.		Cream to or antibiotics or avoiding irritants.
NSU (Non-Specific Urethritis)	Inflammation of the urethra, can be sexually transmitted or caused by any irritation of the area.	Only men have symptoms, which may be discharge, irritation and pain when urinating.	May indicate some underlying infection.	Usually antibiotics.

The Sheffield Chlamydia Screening Programme

General Background

Genital Chlamydia trachomatis infection is the most commonly diagnosed bacterial sexually transmitted infection in genitourinary medicine (GUM) clinics in the United Kingdom. 10.1% of women and 13.3% of men under the age of 25 have a genital Chlamydia infection with no symptoms¹. Prevalence beyond the age of 25 drops dramatically.

About 8% of women infected with Chlamydia will develop Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID)². 17% of women treated for PID will become infertile. 10% of those who do conceive will have an ectopic pregnancy³.

The annual cost of undiagnosed and untreated Chlamydia and its consequences in the United Kingdom is estimated to be more than £100 million⁴.

The National Chlamydia Screening Programme is available in all Primary Care Trusts in England.

Outreach Services

The screening service is now being extended to cover outreach services throughout Sheffield.

These are managed separately for each site according to requirements but generally are managed as follows;

1. Identify those who qualify for inclusion within the screening programme. They can be male or female and must;
 - Be sexually active
 - Be under the age of 25
 - Have no symptoms that would lead you to suspect they could have Chlamydia i.e. abnormal vaginal discharge, abdominal pain suggestive of Pelvic Inflammatory Disease. People who have **symptoms** need **clinical assessment** and appropriate testing rather than screening.
2. Hand out the screening pack which contains the request form, urine specimen container, leaflet and a pen.
3. Discuss the National Chlamydia Screening Programme booklet
4. Explain procedure (see tear off slip on front of form)
5. Collect specimen and check that form and labels filled in correctly



6. Check that they know how and when they will get their results
7. Refrigerate and send sample as arranged to Northern General Hospital
8. Fill in the patients tested log form (with Date of birth, date and time taken only to protect identity), and fax/send to screening office weekly as a safeguard to check results have been received.

What Happens Next?

The Chlamydia Screening Office (based at Central Health Clinic, Mulberry Street) will inform every person who has had a test of their results via their chosen method of contact, within 2 weeks.

If the result is **NEGATIVE**, no further action is taken. If they have unprotected sex again, they are advised to abstain from sex (or at least use a condom) and return for a repeat test after 2 weeks.

If the result is **POSITIVE**, they will be contacted by their chosen method. A Health Advisor will arrange where they would like to attend for their treatment and discuss partner notification. Many people attend Central Health Clinic for treatment. They will be encouraged to bring their partner with them so they can both have treatment of the same day. They will get a follow-up phone call from the Health Adviser. Test of cure is not routinely offered if the patient and partner have been treated simultaneously and abstained from sex for 7 days after treatment. Patients can have a repeat test 6 weeks after treatment for reassurance. Retreatment and/or retesting may be needed if there has been exposure to an untreated partner.

If the test result is **inconclusive or the sample has leaked in transit**, the Chlamydia Screening Office will contact the patient and recommend a repeat test.

Treatment

First line treatment will be Azithromycin 1gm (4 x 250 mgm tablets) stat as this ensures that the tablets have been taken. If the partner/s have not been treated at the same time, they are advised to abstain from intercourse (or at least use condoms) until their partner has received treatment.

