

SERVICE SPECIFICATION

**TO PROVIDE A CHLAMYDIA SCREENING COUNTER-TOP
KITS 16-24 YEAR OLDS ONLY**

Service	Community Pharmacy Service Specification for Sexual Health Services: Chlamydia Screening Counter-top Kits 16-24 year olds only
Authority Lead	Devon and Torbay
Period	1ST October 2021 – 30th September 2023
Date of Review	October 2022

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1. POPULATION NEEDS

1.1 National/local context and evidence base

Improving sexual health is a public health priority. The Public Health Outcomes Framework for England 2013-2016 (Department of Health 2012) set the national and local strategic direction for sexual health with three principal indicators:

- A reduction in the under 18 conception rate
- A reduction in the proportion of people with HIV whose infection is diagnosed late
- An increase in Chlamydia diagnoses among young people in the target population

Contraception is key to good sexual and reproductive health. Community pharmacists are one of several settings where young people can access sexual health services and are well placed to provide accessible and convenient services. Increasing early access to free emergency hormonal contraception is one of many measures that has contributed to a reduction in unplanned teenage conception rates.

Chlamydia is the most common bacterial sexually transmitted infection¹, with sexually active young adults at highest risk. As chlamydia often has no symptoms and can have serious health consequences, opportunistic screening remains an essential element of good quality sexual health services for young adults.

This service is commissioned as part of a whole system approach to improving sexual health outcomes in Devon and Torbay. For more information on sexual and reproductive health in Devon and Torbay please refer to local Health Needs Assessments published in 2017^{2,3}

2. KEY SERVICE OUTCOMES

2.1 Insert any locally agreed outcomes and quality requirements

The public health outcomes list below are the key outcomes which the provider will contribute to achieving in delivering the service specification:

- an increase in the Chlamydia diagnoses amongst young people aged 15-24

Key service outcomes:

- a reduction in the prevalence of Chlamydia and its complications by early detection and treatment of asymptomatic infection and reduction of the transmission of infection amongst young adults aged 15-24
- a confidential, welcoming and responsive community pharmacy service for young people with access to consistent information, advice and signposting to specialist services

3. SCOPE

3.1 Aims and objectives of service

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/sexually-transmitted-infections-stis-annual-data-tables> Information on STI diagnoses and sexual health services provided in England by demographic characteristics and geographical region. – Updated June 2018 accessed July 2018

² <http://www.devonhealthandwellbeing.org.uk/library/needs-assessments/>

³ <http://www.torbay.gov.uk/council/policies/health/srhna/>

This service specification is designed to:

- improve the quality and accessibility of sexual health services to young people between the ages of 16–24 in a range of community settings
- increase the uptake of Chlamydia screens in young women and young men who have had an unprotected sex episode, thereby increasing the number of identified cases and opportunities for treatment and partner management
- opportunistically signpost a young person between the ages of 16-24 (not presenting for EHC) to counter-top Chlamydia screening kit

3.2 Service description/pathway

- Counter-top Screening Kits should be displayed at the point of sale, to enable 16-24 year olds to opportunistically pick up a kit, without a face-to-face consultation with the pharmacist
- Young people aged 16-24 who present to the community pharmacist with symptoms suggestive of sexual ill health should be referred on to local specialist sexual health services.
- The pharmacist must use their professional judgement to consider and act on any safeguarding concerns that may arise as a consequence of providing the service to a young person. This should be in line with local Devon and Torbay Safeguarding Children's Board procedures (<http://www.devonsafeguardingchildren.org/>).
- Pharmacies will offer a 'Young People Friendly' patient centred and confidential service, and be equipped to respond to young people's enquiries if they arise, with up to date information on responsible condom use and safer sexual activity.
- Pharmacists and staff involved in the provision of the service are required to clearly display any promotional materials advertising the service

3.2.1 Records

- Pharmacists must ensure that all of the relevant fields in the PharmOutcomes template are completed.

3.2.2 Training and accreditation standards for General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) registered community pharmacists

The Applicant, as employers, confirm that they will ensure that all pharmacists and supporting staff are fit for the purposes for which they are employed i.e. suitably qualified and appropriately trained and vetted for the roles they are undertaking (for example DBS checks as per organisational requirements). For more information see (<https://www.gov.uk/disclosure-barring-service-check/overview>)

- **Local face-to-face training session:**

On completion of the online CPPE emergency hormonal contraception and safeguarding modules, pharmacists will be required to attend a local face-to-face training session covering:

- Chlamydia screening and the role of the pharmacist
- Using the Preventx Chlamydia Screening kit;
- Recording activity on the PharmOutcomes platform
- How to make the best of a sexual health conversation with a young person

- General consent issues/assessing Fraser competence; being alert and observant for any issues of concern for under 16's, and vulnerable young adults
- Promoting the sexual health service for young people in the pharmacy
- The role of the chlamydia screening team/management of positive results

Pharmacists and staff who wish to provide the Counter-top Pick-up Screening Kit service are required to attend a local Face-to-face training session as detailed above.

- The Sexual health in Pharmacies Open Learning Programme CPPE self-learning packages is currently **recommended** but not compulsory:

Maintaining accreditation status:

- Each individual pharmacist has responsibility to ensure that they maintain their accreditation status and competency. Pharmacists are required to attend a local face-to-face update session every **3** years and update relevant CPPE modules in accordance with their personal learning requirements.

3.3 Population covered

The service will cover the population of Devon County Council and Torbay Council geographical areas.

3.4 Any acceptance and exclusion criteria

Acceptance Criteria

Counter-top pick up of screening kits – for young people between the ages of 16 and 24 only. As this is a remote pick-up service, there is no opportunity for the pharmacist to undertake a Fraser competence and safeguarding assessment of a young person. In the event that a young person under 16 does pick up a kit and it is processed in the lab, the team from the local Chlamydia screening office will attempt to contact that young person to undertake a telephone assessment.

Exclusion Criteria

Young people **under the age of 16** and **adults aged 25 and over** are **excluded** from this service. If the pharmacist is aware that the client is outside of this age range, the individual should be signposted to alternative services that provide reliable regular contraception and management of sexually transmitted infections.

3.5 Interdependencies with other services

The provider will have close working relationships with all relevant services, agencies and disciplines as appropriate to support the delivery of the service outlined in this specification.

3.6 Any activity planning assumptions

The service outlined in this specification will generally be located in pharmacies based on local need and identified service gaps will be available through routine opening hours.

The counter-top Chlamydia Screening Kits service limits provision of the service to 16-24 year olds only and will only be suitable in specific circumstances. Providers may wish to discuss this with their local Commissioner.

4. APPLICABLE SERVICE STANDARDS

4.1 Applicable national standards e.g. NICE

The service will be provided in compliance with:

- NICE PH51 Contraception services with a focus on young people up to the age of 25
- Safeguarding (Fraser guidelines)
- Department of Health guidance on confidential sexual health advice and treatment for young people aged under 16

4.2 Applicable local standards

- Safeguarding (Fraser Guidelines) - young people under the age of 18 years presenting for sexual health services will be encouraged to involve their parents or guardians.
- Young people under the age of 13 or where abuse is suspected will be managed according to Devon safeguarding children policy and guidance (<http://www.devonsafeguardingchildren.org/>)
- Best practice guidance for doctors and other health professionals on the provision of advice and treatment to young people under 16 on contraception, sexual and reproductive health (Department of Health 2004)
- The Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Devon safeguarding policy and guidance for working with vulnerable adults (<https://new.devon.gov.uk/devonsafeguardingadultsboard/>).
- Local Devon policy and guidance developed in line with the National Chlamydia Screening Programme Standards 7th Edition (May 2014).

Incidents Requiring Reporting - the Pharmacist is required to report to the Public Health Commissioner as soon as reasonably practicable and timely any significant events associated with this service.

5. LOCATION OF PROVIDER PREMISES

The Provider's Premises are located at: Pharmacy premises

6. FUNDING

- See Appendix E: CHARGES.

QUALITY OUTCOMES INDICATORS

(N.B Activity and performance targets may be altered in-year)

Data Quality Indicator	Data Quality Threshold	Method of Measurement	Milestone Date	Consequence
Community Pharmacy Service Specification for Sexual Health Services				
Activity in the service to be assessed by reviewing the number of diagnostic screens arising from a specific pharmacy site		Activity accessible via PreventX	Periodic audit of PreventX data to be undertaken by the commissioner	Joint review process
Pharmacists and other staff who provide the service are appropriately trained	Locally approved face-to face sessions	To be held by the pharmacist	Periodic audit of pharmacy sites may be undertaken by the commissioner	Joint review process
Appropriate targeting of Chlamydia screening (Chlamydia positivity rate for diagnostic screens arising from a specific pharmacy site remains between 5% - 12 %)	Positivity rate 5%>12%	Data available via Preventx website	This will be subject to periodic review by the commissioner to ensure that the appropriate client group is targeted	Joint review process