

Chlamydia Treatment in Community Pharmacies

(under direction of doxycycline and azithromycin PGDs)

Service Specification



1. INTRODUCTION

Chlamydia is the most commonly diagnosed sexually transmitted infection (STI) in England. Chlamydia often has no symptoms but, if left untreated, can have serious health complications in women. The chlamydia detection rate in 15 to 24 year olds in 2020 in Plymouth was 1,437 per 100,000 population (539 positives out of 5,536 screened) which was lower than the 2,300 target and similar to the rate of 1,408 for England. In 2020, 14.8% of 15 to 24 year olds in Plymouth were tested for chlamydia, compared to 14.3% nationally

In June 2021, the National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP) changed to focus on reducing the harms from untreated chlamydia infection. These harms occur predominantly in young women* and other people with a womb or ovaries. In response, opportunistic screening should focus on these groups, combined with reducing time to test results and treatment, strengthening partner notification and re-testing after treatment.

This service specification sets out the requirements for services delivered by community pharmacies currently providing Plymouth's Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) service to offer treatment for chlamydia under a Patient Group Direction (PGD).

The specification of this service is designed to cover the enhanced aspects of clinical care of the patient, all of which are beyond the scope of essential services within pharmacies.

The service aims to provide a comprehensive accessible Chlamydia Screening and Treatment service which will contribute to the improvement of sexual health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities in sexual health.

2. PURPOSE

The aim of this enhanced service is to

- Reduce the prevalence and onward transmission of undiagnosed chlamydia and help reduce the incidence of its complications.
- Increase awareness of the risks of unprotected sex amongst the target local population through general promotion of the service.
- Improve access and offer choice for asymptomatic patients requiring treatment for Chlamydia
- Provide health promotion, treatment and onward referral to appropriate services for the target population that may be at risk of contracting sexually transmitted infections.
- To strengthen the network of integrated sexual and reproductive services in Plymouth.

SERVICE DESCRIPTION

As part of this enhanced service the provider will:

- 2.1 Supply doxycycline as the first line treatment and azithromycin where the first line treatment is not indicated or is declined.
- 2.2 Provide the service as part of part of the wider chlamydia screening service currently provided by

Sexual Health In Plymouth (SHiP).

- 2.3 Provide information concerning recommendation to re-test 12 weeks after treatment including details of local testing options.
- 2.4 Note that all management of results and tracing and notification of partners/contacts relating to this service shall be undertaken by the SHiP
- 2.5 Give advice on the potential side effects and drug interactions with doxycycline and azithromycin.
- 2.6 Offer a user-friendly, non-judgmental, service user-centred and confidential service.
- 2.7 Provide support and advice to people accessing the service, including advice on safe sex, condom use and advice on the use of regular contraceptive methods, when required.
- 2.8 Undertake appropriate consideration in regard to whether young people under the age of 16 are Fraser competent and where appropriate assess the service user according to Fraser competence criteria

3. Eligibility criteria

- 3.1 The pharmacists delivering this service will be providing the local Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) enhanced service and be providing chlamydia screening as part of that.
- 3.2 Treatment for chlamydia will be offered under a doxycycline or azithromycin PGD for those who receive a positive chlamydia test through the chlamydia screen service only. Treatment will also be available for their partners.
- 3.3 Only clients suitable for treatment under the PGDs will be issued with treatment
- 3.4 Pharmacists will have signed up to the doxycycline and azithromycin PGDs. SHiP will maintain a list of all those pharmacists able to offer treatment through the PGDs.
- 3.5 Referrals for the treatment of chlamydia positive clients and any partners will be made by the SHiP.
- 3.6 SHiP will assess client's suitability to receive treatment via the PGDs
- 3.7 SHiP must be informed of any clients treated or not through the Client Management Form
- 3.8 In the event that any client is deemed to be unsuitable for treatment via the PGDs they should be referred back to SHiP to identify alternative treatment options

4. Access to the service

The service is available to women in Plymouth under 25 years who meet the inclusion criteria as defined in the Patient Group Directions for Doxycycline and Azithromycin and have consented to treatment.

The service must be accessible during normal service opening hours. The service must be provided from a designated consulting area that provides sufficient privacy, confidentiality and comfort for the client. Pharmacies are encouraged to display relevant promotional materials.

5. Payment Structure

- 5.1 A fee of £15.00 will be paid to the Pharmacy for each occasion that a treatment of doxycycline or azithromycin is supplied.
- 5.2 Payment is made quarterly in arrears based on activity reported via PharmOutcomes.
- 5.3 No claim should be made more than one month after the end of the quarter

6. NETWORKS AND LINKS

6.1 It is expected that the provider will maintain working relationships with specialist sexual health and services SHiP and other services relevant to the needs of those accessing this service.

6.2 Pharmacists should cascade general information on chlamydia treatment to all pharmacy staff to ensure that everyone is aware of the key issues regarding this. This will also help to ensure that all staff respond sensitively and appropriately to enquiries about treatment. In particular, staff should recognise that all requests for treatment should be referred to the pharmacist or if unavailable to SHiP

7. ACCREDITATION AND TRAINING STANDARDS

7.1 The Provider will ensure sufficient and suitably qualified staff to deliver the service.

7.2 In addition, all pharmacists delivering the service must attend local training co-ordinated through SHiP and update every two years.

8. QUALITY REQUIREMENTS

This service will be provided in compliance with the following guidance

- Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Health Guideline Emergency Contraception <https://www.fsrh.org/news/fsrh-launches-new-emergency-contraception-guideline/>
- National Chlamydia Screening Programme standards (8th Edition)
- [English National Chlamydia Screening Programme \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/444444/english-national-chlamydia-screening-programme-standards-8th-edition.pdf)
- Plymouth safeguarding children policy and guidance <http://web.plymouth.gov.uk/localsafeguardingchildrenboard>
- Plymouth safeguarding policy and guidance for working with vulnerable adults <http://web.plymouth.gov.uk/adultsafeguardingboard.htm>
- The Mental Capacity Act 2005

9. MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Providers are required to have a robust incident reporting and investigation procedure in place for all clinical and non-clinical incidents.

All SUIs must be recorded and reported to the commissioner

10. CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

The pharmacy must maintain adequate records of the service provided on relevant forms and on PharmOutcomes

The accredited pharmacist must ensure that the Practitioner Checklist and Assessment and Record Sheet in the PGD is completed during every consultation, regardless of whether or not treatment is supplied

SHiP will report quarterly screening activity figures to Plymouth City Council. Review meetings will be arranged by mutual agreement between the Practice and the commissioner as required.

