

Public Health enhanced service for chlamydia screening in pharmacies

Service Specification



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. 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. Opportunistic screening should therefore focus on these groups, combined with reducing time to test results and treatment, strengthening partner notification and re-testing after treatment. Services provided by sexual health services remain unchanged.

In practice this means that chlamydia screening in community settings (e.g. GP and Community Pharmacy) will only be proactively offered to young women and other people with a womb or ovaries. Everyone can still get tested if they need, but men will not be proactively offered a test unless an indication has been identified, such as being a partner of someone with chlamydia or having symptoms. More details can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-chlamydia-screening-programme-ncsp>. 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.

1. PURPOSE

Community pharmacies can offer a convenient and easily accessible location to provide the target population with advice and information regarding chlamydia infection and to offer them screening and treatment where appropriate. Chlamydia treatment within community pharmacies complements the wider sexual and reproductive health offer such as the provision of Oral Contraceptive Pill, Condoms and Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC), by offering a more holistic sexual health care service to this user group.

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 a Chlamydia screen
- Provide testing, health promotion, diagnosis, 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.

2. SERVICE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Key activity

As part of this enhanced service the named community pharmacy will:

- Make available chlamydia screening kits to sexually active women aged 13-24 years.

- Signpost individuals to chlamydia kits, for example when individuals are purchasing condoms, collecting oral contraceptive pills and requesting Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC)
- Where necessary provide advice on using the kit, how to return it for testing and what will happen following completion of the test
- 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
- Link with local sexual health services where appropriate to provide referral pathway for people who need services relating to diagnosis and management of sexually transmitted infections and contraception
- Maintain adequate records of the service provided on PharmOutcomes
- Participate in relevant training and engagement with local sexual health services

2.2 Eligibility criteria

The service is available to all Plymouth resident sexually active women under 25 years old. The service is not available to people who have not validly consented to screening or young people under the age of 16 years deemed not to be Fraser competent.

2.3 Access to the service

This service will be available to Plymouth resident women who are sexually active under 25 year olds

2.4 Payment Structure

A £2.60 payment will be made for each chlamydia test issued and £2.60 for every test returned

3. NETWORKS AND LINKS

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.

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

4. ACCREDITATION AND TRAINING STANDARDS

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

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

5. 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

6. 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

7. CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

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

The Pharmacy will report activity through PharmOutcomes. The pharmacy will participate in any service audits deemed necessary by Plymouth City Council

