
PUBLIC HEALTH LOCAL SERVICES AGREEMENTS 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021

Community Pharmacy Chlamydia Screening Postal Kits

1. Introduction

The National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP) in England is an opportunistic screening programme for genital chlamydial infection, targeting women and men between 15 and 24 years of age, who have been or are sexually active, attending a range of health care and non-health care settings. The national chlamydia screening target for 2015/17 is for a diagnosis rate of 2,300 cases of chlamydia per 100,000 population aged 15 to 24. Data from previous years has shown that chlamydia screening tests performed on patients in primary care have found a large proportion of positive cases.

Community Pharmacy is ideally placed to offer opportunistic screening to individuals and this service is being developed to support the delivery of the chlamydia screening programme in East Sussex. Local co-ordination of the screening programme and treatment support is provided by the specialist sexual health services.

2. Background/Evidence Base

Chlamydia is the most common sexually transmitted infection (STI) in the UK, and it affects both men and women. Chlamydia is easy to treat once detected but the majority of cases are asymptomatic. Untreated Chlamydia can lead to long-term problems for men and women such as arthritic syndromes, impaired fertility and ectopic pregnancy. Prevalence is highest in sexually active young men and women under 25.

The annual cost of chlamydia and its consequences in the United Kingdom is estimated to be more than £100 million. There is growing evidence that active case finding for genital chlamydial infection, through targeted screening of at-risk populations, can significantly reduce the morbidity associated with this infection and its sequelae.

3. Aims/Outcomes

The aim of the service is to routinely offer self-taken Chlamydia postal screening tests to all male and female pharmacy users aged 15 – 24 years.

4. Service Outline/Standards

Process: The pharmacy must ensure that chlamydia screening home sampling is advertised clearly.

Test kits will be given to those who request them

Pharmacy/ counter staff must not ask questions nor must they attempt to formally assess or consult with the individual other than to answer questions the individual may ask.

Pharmacists/counter staff are encouraged to offer chlamydia tests to any male or female who is aged between 15-24. The need to formally consult for EHC is covered within the EHC PHLSA for those pharmacists who are accredited to provide the EHC service.

Screens use a self-taken low vaginal swab (females) or first catch urine sample (males) and are intended as take home test kits or can be carried out within the pharmacy if toilet facilities are available. Completed screening kits are returned by using the pre-paid paid postal envelope included in the kit. Tests are posted by the individual in the prepaid testkit envelope.

Testing and results management must be carried out by the testkit provider, the individual who has tested must be instructed within the test kit pack how to follow their test and results.

Reactive results, patient notification and treatment management must be managed by the specialist sexual health services who will deal with all reactive test positive results, follow-up contacts and organise treatments for positive patients and their contacts.

5. Clinical Governance

As part of good Clinical Governance contractors will be required to develop, implement, monitor and review the clinical quality of the service that they undertake. All service providers must undertake a risk assessment to ensure adequate facilities and equipment are in place to deliver the service and identify the resources available to support the service.

6. Referrals and Eligibility

Providers must opportunistically offer a self-testing postal screening kit to all individuals aged between 15 and 24. Those aged over 25 must not be excluded from receiving a test kit if they request one, as it is recognised that the pharmacy may be the only accessible service available, in this instance remuneration will be supplied.

7 Equipment and Premises

Chlamydia screening postal kits provided are to the pharmacy by the chlamydia screening office on request.

8. Accreditation & Training

There is no specific training required as this service is focussed on the provision of postal tests kits to all men and women who attend aged 15-24 years old which can be undertaken by counter staff.

9. Payment

Providers will be paid £5.00 per correctly completed received chlamydia screening postal test kit as reported by East Sussex Specialist Sexual Health Services to ESCC. The eligible population is defined as men and women who are aged 15 to 24 during the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

Payment is based on number of correctly completed chlamydia tests received by the testkit provider. The kit and diagnostic provider send anonymised reports of tests completed, allocated to the originating pharmacy to Public health department at East Sussex County Council Public health department. Public health then calculate and reimburse pharmacists depending on total numbers of completed tests on a quarterly basis.

10. Monitoring, Audit & Reporting

ESCC will monitor data received from the testkit and diagnostics provider.

11. Contacts

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East Sussex
TN34 1BA
01424 464750

East Sussex Specialist Sexual Health
Avenue House, The Avenue, Eastbourne,
East Sussex
BN21 3XY
01323 416100

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Tracey Houston – Business Manager for Public Health
01273 481932 / Tracey.houston@eastsussex.gov.uk

Chlamydia screening NAATs kits request from <http://www.eastsussexsexualhealth.co.uk/order-a-chlamydia-screening-kit.html>
01323 462762

Condoms and lubrication esht.cccardeastsussex.nhs.net