

Public Health Locally Commissioned Services

Chlamydia testing and treatment service

April 2026 – March 2029

Community Pharmacy

1. Service Description

This service is intended to provide a chlamydia testing and treatment service from community pharmacies across Brighton and Hove. In the delivery of the service pharmacies will offer a user-friendly, non-judgemental, person-centred and confidential service which links into existing networks for contraception and sexual health services.

The purpose of this specification is to set out the agreement for opportunistic chlamydia screening and treatment in community pharmacies for the target population of females and transgender men under 25 year olds, as defined by the Chlamydia Screening Programme (CSP).

Pharmacy staff providing the service must show awareness and be responsive to the needs of young people who access the service. The 'You're Welcome' guidance sets out 8 standards and associated quality criteria for youth-friendly services that have been developed in partnership with young people. ['You're Welcome': establishing youth-friendly health and care services - GOV.UK](#)

The chlamydia testing and treatment service includes:

- The supply of chlamydia/gonorrhoea test packs (C-tests)
- Chlamydia treatment supplied under Patient Group Direction (PGD) to all individuals referred by the Chlamydia Screening Programme (CSP) and to the sexual contacts of people referred.
- The supply of C-tests (Refer to Appendix 2) to the under the 25s accessing the NHS Pharmacy Contraception Services. [NHS England » NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service](#)

The supply of chlamydia/gonorrhoea tests

- C-tests available as vaginal swab should be supplied to females and transgender men under 25 years of age.
- Urine C-tests for males and transgender women under 25 years may also be supplied if requested.
- C-tests should be offered opportunistically to females and transgender men under 25 years of age who access the NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service and to females and transgender men under 25 who are visiting the pharmacy to collect prescriptions or for healthcare advice.
- C-tests may also be supplied to the partners of those with a positive chlamydia test regardless of age.
- Healthcare assistants offering this part of the service must complete the training detailed in section 8 and be aware of the safeguarding procedures within the pharmacy.
- Individuals requesting or offered a C-test should be made aware that chlamydia treatment is available through the pharmacy or the Brighton and Hove Integrated Sexual Health and Contraception Service (SHAC).
- Individuals should be informed that the test also screens for gonorrhoea and if treatment is necessary, it will be offered by SHAC.
- Individuals over 25 years of age who are not partners of those with a positive chlamydia test, requesting C-tests should be signposted to SHAC.

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- The Chlamydia Screening Programme at SHAC will refer individuals to commissioned community pharmacies for treatment. The chlamydia treatment pathway is detailed in **Appendix 1**.
- The service should be provided by suitably trained and competent pharmacy staff. The responsible pharmacist must ensure that delegated tasks are being undertaken safely by competent pharmacy staff. Supply under a PGD must be undertaken by a pharmacist or pharmacy technician.
- The pharmacy contractor must have a standard operating procedure (SOP) in place covering the provision of the service. The SOP must include the process for escalation of clinical and non-clinical issues identified including accessing Level 3 safeguarding advice, signposting details, record keeping and staff training.
- Where a pharmacy technician is to deliver the service using a PGD, the pharmacy contractor must have an SOP in place to include the process of how the responsible pharmacist will supervise associated activities connected to the supply of medicines, such as labelling. The SOP should define the roles and responsibilities of the responsible pharmacist and pharmacy technician to meet legal requirements and to enable a supply of medicine to be made autonomously by the pharmacy technician under the PGD, with appropriate supervision.
- All consultations must be with the person accessing the service, and for whom the medication is for.
- This service specification allows for remote verbal consultations with individuals using NHS approved technologies or by telephone from a confidential area within the pharmacy premises.
- The supply of chlamydia treatment will be made free of charge to individuals who meet the inclusion criteria of the chlamydia treatment PGDs. Refer to the current Doxycycline PGD or Azithromycin PGD for the full list of inclusion and exclusion criteria.
- The pharmacist/pharmacy technician will provide general advice and support to those seeking advice on sexually transmitted infections (STI) and signpost to specific services where appropriate i.e. the Sexual Health and Contraception (SHAC) service.
<http://brightonsexualhealth.com>.
- Individuals accessing the service should be offered a sexual health care pack at the end of the consultation. Refer to Appendix 2.
- The pharmacist/pharmacy technician must ensure that their professional indemnity cover provider has confirmed that these activities will be included in their policy.

2. Aims and intended service outcomes

- To improve the sexual health of individuals in Brighton & Hove through access to chlamydia/gonorrhoea self-testing kits and chlamydia treatment.
- To increase individual's knowledge of the risks of acquiring STIs and how to avoid them.
- To signpost service users to other sexual health services such as SHAC.
www.brightonsexualhealth.com.
- To improve access to sexual health services and advice and reduce pressure on specialist sexual health services and primary care.
- To strengthen the local network of contraceptive and sexual health services and to help ensure easy and swift access to advice for all people who seek assistance.

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3. Service outline

- Verbal consent to receive the service must be sought from the person and recorded in the pharmacy's clinical record for the service.
- Individuals who lack capacity to consent should be referred to SHAC for a Best Interest Assessment undertaken by an authorised prescribing practitioner
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2005/9/contents>.
- Individuals referred for chlamydia treatment should be offered an appointment with a pharmacist/pharmacy technician as soon as possible. If they are unable to be seen on the day of the referral then they must be signposted to another service such as another contracted pharmacy or SHAC.
- It is the responsibility of the contractor to signpost individuals to other providers if they are unable to offer the service. SHAC and BHCC will maintain and update a list of providers on the SHAC website. www.brightonsexualhealth.com.
- The contractor must ensure the pharmacy premises have a consultation room in which the individual can be seen privately and have their confidentiality maintained.
- Either party may request or offer a chaperone to be present during the consultation. Details of the chaperone should be documented in the clinical record.
- Details of individuals using the service must be recorded on the PharmOutcomes chlamydia testing and chlamydia treatment service templates. The data must be stored in line with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).
- The pharmacist/ pharmacy technician must ensure that they access support when appropriate. Pharmacists/ pharmacy technicians can access pharmacy support from SHAC if professional guidance is required. www.brightonsexualhealth.com.
- The criteria for supplying chlamydia treatment under PGD must be adhered to at all times.
- With the patient's consent, their GP record (e.g. via GP Connect Access Record), national care record, or an alternative clinical record for the patient, should be checked by the pharmacist if necessary unless there are exceptional circumstances preventing this.
- The contractor must ensure that all other pharmacy staff that have contact with individuals using the service are trained accordingly. This will include areas such as confidentiality and signposting to alternative services in the area.
- It is recommended to allocate a designated space within the pharmacy to advertise sexual health services. This includes information on other options to obtain this service locally.
- The contractor must contact SHAC (see Appendix 2) as soon as possible if the service is unavailable. The service commissioner should also be notified as soon as possible and no longer than 24 hours by contacting the commissioner by email **Email:** publichealth@brighton-hove.gov.uk.
- BHCC will monitor the performance of each individual pharmacy, using aggregated data from PharmOutcomes. The contractor must ensure that the correct data are entered into PharmOutcomes to enable monthly remuneration.
- The pharmacist/pharmacy technician should maintain appropriate records on PharmOutcomes to ensure effective ongoing service delivery and audit. Records will be confidential and should be stored securely for a length of time in line with local NHS record retention policies and as defined in the PGDs.
- The contractor will participate in any new developments in either practice or service, instigated by BHCC subject to prior approval with the Local Pharmaceutical Committee (LPC).
- Pharmacists/pharmacy technicians providing the service must complete the training and accreditation detailed in **section 8**.

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- The pharmacist/pharmacy technician will share relevant information with other health care professionals and agencies, in line with safeguarding confidentiality arrangements. **See section 7 for safeguarding information.**
- BHCC will provide a framework on PharmOutcomes for the recording of relevant service information for the purposes of audit and the claiming of payment.
- BHCC will ensure that PGDs are available for the supply of chlamydia treatment. Copies will also be available on the chlamydia treatment template on PharmOutcomes.
- The pharmacist /pharmacy technician supplying the medicine must undertake the whole episode of care under the PGD.
- The contract to provide the service to the identified service user group is the responsibility of the pharmacy contractor and not the individual pharmacist/ pharmacy technician employees. The pharmacy contractor must ensure the service is delivered according to the specification.

4. Remote consultations

The Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare (FSRH) and the British Association for Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH) have co-authored a set of standards to be used as a benchmark for all providers of remote SH/SRH services, and as a tool for commissioning of services. It will also enable service users to understand what to expect from their provider. The expected standards for the chlamydia testing and treatment service are summarised below and further information can be found here <https://www.fsrh.org/standards-and-guidance/documents/fsrbashh-standards-for-online-and-remote-providers-of-sexual/>

- Confidentiality must always be maintained, and consultations should be verbal and take place in an area of the pharmacy where they can't be overheard.
- Contractors must satisfy themselves that they can make an adequate and reliable assessment which does not compromise service user care.
- Safeguarding must be taken into consideration during all consultations and appropriate action taken if necessary– see section 7.
- Individuals under the age of 16 years old must be offered a confidential face to face consultation to ensure there are no safeguarding concerns.

5. Quality Indicators

- Health promotion materials promoting the availability of the service are displayed within the pharmacy and on the SHAC and primary care websites.
- Individuals requesting the service will be seen as soon as possible. If they are unable to be seen immediately, they must be given the opportunity to make an appointment within 24 hours or be signposted to other services such as another commissioned pharmacy or SHAC.
- Contractors must be able to provide the service for at least 70% of opening hours, including available appointments at the weekend.
- Contractors unable to provide the service either temporarily or permanently must contact the service commissioner as soon as possible and no longer than 24 hours from stopping provision.
- Contractors have access to an up-to-date list of other chlamydia testing and treatment service providers to enable signposting when necessary.
- The contractor must develop a standard operating procedure (SOP) for the chlamydia testing and treatment service incorporating the referral and signposting pathway for the service.
- The PharmOutcomes service template for the purposes of audit and claiming payment is completed either during or directly after the service consultation on all occasions.

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- The contractor can demonstrate that pharmacists and staff involved in the provision of the service have undertaken the required training, accreditation and continuing professional development (CPD) relevant to this service.
- The contractor co-operates with any locally agreed BHCC assessment and evaluation of the service user experience to inform service development, as agreed with the LPC.
- The contractor will manage the stock of C- tests by liaising with the CSP (as per the contact details in Appendix 1) and with the CSP health promotion specialists when they visit the pharmacy.

6. DBS Requirements

An **enhanced DBS** must be in place for all pharmacists/pharmacy technicians delivering the chlamydia treatment service. Providers will assure themselves that the appropriate DBS check, for the type of service being undertaken is in place for each member of staff providing the service. Please see guidance [Quick Guide to DBS Checks.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#) The BHCC policy is that enhanced DBS are refreshed every three years.

The cost of enhanced DBS checks for permanent pharmacy staff (including permanent relief staff) will be reimbursed by BHCC. Locum pharmacists and non-permanent staff are excluded from DBS reimbursement claims.

Please send a copy of the invoice to publichealth@brighton-hove.gov.uk.

7. Safeguarding

Contractors must have a safeguarding policy in place that is in line with the Brighton and Hove safeguarding policies (listed below) before providing the service. All staff working in the pharmacy must be made aware of the key contacts for advice within the pharmacy and how to raise safeguarding concerns. Pharmacists/pharmacy technicians are required to act according to local child protection or safeguarding procedures when advising young people on sexual health and contraception.

- If child is < 13 years contact the Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Children Partnership <https://www.bhscp.org.uk>
- Safeguarding concerns (for children aged 13 to 18) identified at presentation should be referred to the Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Children Partnership. <https://www.bhscp.org.uk> <http://www.brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/>
- Follow local safeguarding arrangements for vulnerable adults when appropriate. [Report a safeguarding concern \(brighton-hove.gov.uk\)](#) <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/social-care/keeping-people-safe/help-adults-risk-abuse-or-neglect>
- Pharmacists/pharmacy technicians are required to use Fraser Guidelines to assess competence and risk when providing contraceptive advice or treatment to young people. Fraser guidelines are detailed In **Appendix 3** <https://www.fsrh.org/standards-and-guidance/documents/cec-ceu-guidance-young-people-mar-2010/>
- It is a mandatory requirement for Pharmacists/ pharmacy technicians to complete the Safeguarding Level 3 training – – [Safeguarding Children and Adults Level 3 for Community Pharmacists](#) – video on the E-learning for Healthcare (ELFH) website or [Safeguarding Level 3 Learning for Healthcare Safeguarding Children and Young People \(SGC\)](#) – Safeguarding Children Level 3.
- Contractors are encouraged to access the NHS England Safeguarding App or access the following information [NHS England » Safeguarding](#).

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8. Accreditation & Training

Chlamydia Testing Service

Pharmacy staff providing the C-test service must complete the online C-test training provided by SHAC. The training will be provided as a recorded webinar and should take no longer than 1 hour. A link to the training webinar will be sent to all commissioned pharmacies.

Chlamydia Treatment Service

- Pharmacists/pharmacy technicians must be registered with the General Pharmaceutical Council.
- Patient Group Directions have been authorised by BHCC for the supply of chlamydia treatment by community pharmacies in Brighton and Hove.
- Please note at the time of writing the PGDs follow BASHH guidance: [Chlamydia 2015 | BASHH](#). Doxycycline is the first line treatment for chlamydia and azithromycin is the second line treatment if Doxycycline is contraindicated.
- Chlamydia treatment may only be supplied by a pharmacist/pharmacy technician accredited under the accompanying Patient Group Direction (PGD). Pharmacists /pharmacy technician providing the service must sign the PGD and the PGD must also be counter signed by an authorising pharmacist/manager.
- Pharmacy staff must also be trained to confidentially refer each requested chlamydia treatment to the accredited pharmacist/pharmacy technician.
- Pharmacists/Pharmacy technicians must complete the following training modules
 - * [CPPE Sexual health in pharmacies](#) e- learning and e-assessment
 - OR** the following four subsections of * [module 9 – STIs of the FSRH e-SRH](#) on elfh:
 1. 09_01: Epidemiology and transmission of STIs
 2. 09_02: Sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing
 3. 09_03: STI management
 4. 09_04: Partner notification.
- Pharmacists/pharmacy technicians must complete the Safeguarding Level 3 training – [Safeguarding Children and Adults Level 3 for Community Pharmacists](#) – video on elfh **OR** [Safeguarding Level 3](#) Learning for Healthcare Safeguarding Children and Young People (SGC) – Safeguarding Children Level 3.
- The pharmacy contractor must ensure that pharmacists/pharmacy technicians providing the service are competent to do so.
- The pharmacist/pharmacy technician must complete the **Chlamydia Testing and Treatment Service** Declaration of Competence (DoC) on the Centre for Pharmacist Postgraduate Education (CPPE) website <https://www.cppe.ac.uk/services/declaration-of-competence> Signing the DoC whilst not meeting the competencies may constitute or be treated as a fitness to practice issue.
- Pharmacists/pharmacy technicians personalised statement of declaration should be retained and may need to be provided to commissioners and/or employers when required via the [CPPE Viewer](#).
- Pharmacists/pharmacy technicians must have up-to-date knowledge relating to the clinical condition covered by the PGDs, the medicine and its use for the indications specified in the PGDs. Pharmacists must also participate in Continuing Professional Development (CPD) as defined by the General Pharmaceutical Council.
- The declaration of competence must be updated every 3 years.

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- It is a requirement for the pharmacist/ pharmacy technician to set the CPPE viewer on their CPPE profile to “open” to enable commissioners to view the DoC. The PharmOutcomes application on the CPPE profile will also need to be enabled so that the DoC information can be shared with PharmOutcomes.
- Pharmacists/pharmacy technicians must enrol on PharmOutcomes to enable them to provide the service.
- The following guidance and training programmes are available to support pharmacy technicians with working under PGD, they are not a compulsory aspect of the accreditation.
 - NHS Specialist Pharmacy Service: Pharmacy Technicians Working under Patient Group Directions [Pharmacy technicians working under Patient Group Directions – SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service – The first stop for professional medicines advice](#)
 - CPPE: Pharmacy technicians: using patient group directions in practice. [Pharmacy technicians: using patient group directions in practice : CPPE](#)
 - [NICE Competency Framework for health professionals using patient group directions.](#)

9. Termination and change requirements

- Termination of this service contract can be made earlier by either party at 3 months’ written notice.
- Failure to provide activity data in a timely manner or meet the terms and conditions of the service specification as stated above will result in immediate termination of the contract.
- Pharmacies must inform the commissioner within 24 hours if for any reason they are unable to provide the service either temporarily or permanently.

10. Payments for the service

The training and accreditation requirements and data collection are reflected in the fee structure. PharmOutcomes links to the NHS dictionary of medicines and devices and medications supplied will therefore be remunerated at the drug tariff price. Payment will be made monthly on receipt of appropriate documentation and completion of the data capture templates on PharmOutcomes (PO) and submitted to BHCC.

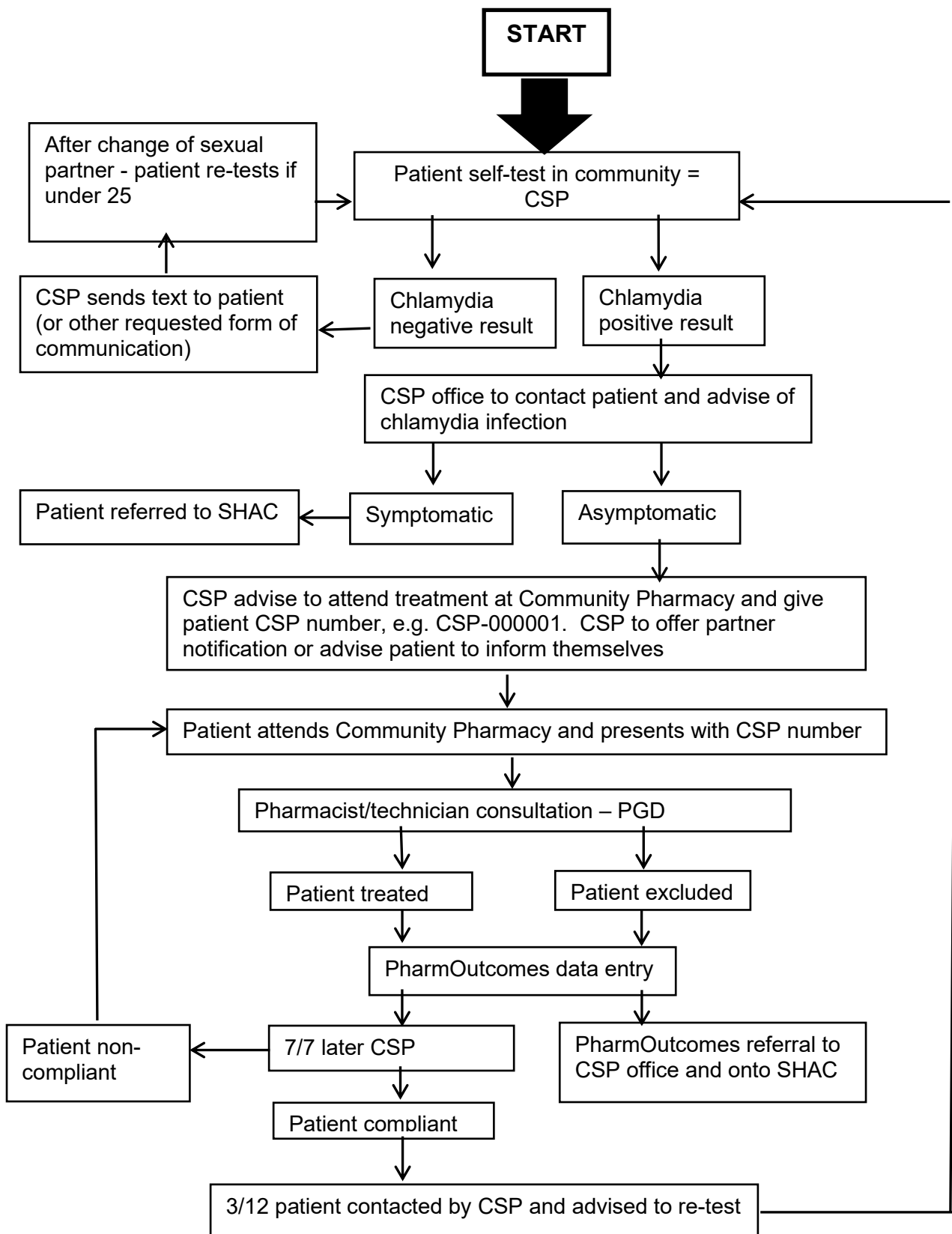
Fee	Remuneration
Chlamydia treatment consultation	£21.50
Cost of chlamydia treatment	Drug tariff price (including any price concessions)
Supply of C-Test pack and record on PO	£3.50

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Appendix 1: Chlamydia Treatment Pathway in Community Pharmacy



Appendix 2

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Chlamydia Screening Programme Team Contact Details

Chlamydia Screening Programme Overview

The Chlamydia Screening Programme (CSP) is part of the Sexual Health & Contraception (SHAC) Service based in Brighton. The Team is responsible for leading this important public health activity, aiming to annually test 15-24 year olds females across the city. In addition to providing sexual health and contraception awareness training to young people and staff, they are responsible for chlamydia and gonorrhoea test activity, as well as kits, C-cards and associated condom and lubricant provision to all CSP Providers. The office is usually staffed Monday-Friday, 8.30am to 5.30pm.

Ordering CSP equipment

We aim to keep in contact with CSP Providers and process orders for both chlamydia kits and the sexual health packs and the c-card distribution scheme in a timely manner. However, if you are near to running out of either or they are *out of date*, please contact the office as per CSP contact details below.

Office contact details for Pharmacy staff and patients CSP General	01273 523222, (with out-of-hours answer machine)
Office No	
CSP Generic In-box	SC-TR.BrightonCASH@nhs.net
CSP Address	Chlamydia Screening Programme Sexual Health and Contraception, Royal Sussex County Hospital, Outpatient's Department, Eastern Road, Brighton, BN2 5BE.

Individual contact details are as below. Name	Job title	Telephone No.	Email address
Beth Kent	Health Promotion Specialist	01273 523222	B.Kent2@nhs.net
Kim Fortescue Talwar	Lead Nurse for Integrated Sexual Health and HIV	01273 696955 x64103	kim.fortescue-talwar@nhs.net
Rosie Gahnstrom	CSP Data Administrator	01273 523222	rosie.gahnstrom@nhs.net
Mia Masters	Health Promotion Administrator	01273 523222	mia.masters@nhs.net

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Caitlin O'Connor	Health Promotion Specialist	01273 523222	caitlin.oconnor1@nhs.net
Amy Foot	CSP Home Sampling Administrator	01273 523222	amy.foot2@nhs.net

Contents of Chlamydia test Packs

- Vaginal Swab C-test (C-test urine sample tests if needed may be supplied separately)
- Condoms
- Lubricant
- Written information about Sexual Transmitted Infections (STIs)

Appendix 3

Fraser Guidelines

In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, in order to provide contraception to young people under 16 years of age without parental consent, it is considered good practice to follow the Fraser Guidelines/criteria.

While the Fraser Guidelines below relate specifically to contraceptive advice or treatment, the principles are applicable to other sexual health services for young people under 16. A young person's age should not be a barrier to them accessing condoms.

Competence is demonstrated if the young person is able to:

Understand the treatment, its purpose and nature, and why it is being proposed
Understand its benefits, risks and alternatives
Understand in broader terms what the consequences of the treatment will be
Retain the information for long enough to use it and weigh it up in order to arrive at a decision.

A young person is competent to consent to contraceptive advice or treatment if:

- The young person understands the professional's advice
- The professional cannot persuade the young person to inform their parents or allow the professional to inform the parents that they are seeking contraceptive advice.
- The young person is very likely to begin or continue having intercourse with or without the contraceptive treatment.
- Unless they receive contraceptive advice or treatment, the young person's physical or mental health or both are likely to suffer.
- The young person's best interests require the professional to give contraceptive advice, treatment or both without parental consent.

Reference

- Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare Clinical Guideline: Contraceptive Choices for Young People Clinical Effectiveness Unit March 2010 (Amended May 2019)

<https://www.fsrh.org/standards-and-guidance/documents/cec-ceu-guidance-young-people-mar-2010/>

Public Health Contacts

Stephen Nicholson

Lead commissioner HIV and sexual health
Brighton & Hove City Council

Andy Close

Public Health Team Office Manager
Brighton & Hove City Council

Direct Enquires to:

Email: publichealth@brighton-hove.gov.uk