

Chlamydia screening programme

Sexual Health Service

Patient Information Leaflet

What is chlamydia?

Today you have had a chlamydia test as part of the National Screening Programme.

Chlamydia is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the UK and it is caused by a germ (bacterium) called *Chlamydia trachomatis*. It often causes no symptoms and can be passed on to others without you realising. However, symptoms and complications may develop if it is left untreated.

The aim of the National Screening Programme is to detect chlamydia early so it can be treated promptly. This should reduce the risk of transmission and also reduce the risk of developing complications.

Chlamydia tests are offered to sexually active women and men aged up to 25 years and are sent to be analysed at the UK National Chlamydia Screening Programme.

How do you get chlamydia?

Most people with chlamydia get the infection by having sex with a person who already has the infection. It is transmitted through contact with semen or vaginal fluids.

What are the common symptoms of chlamydia?

No symptoms occur in around seven in 10 infected women and five in 10 infected men.

Symptoms for women

Symptoms for women may include:

- Vaginal discharge
- Pain or burning when you pass urine
- Vaginal bleeding or spotting between periods. In particular, bleeding after you have sex
- Pain or discomfort in the lower tummy area (the pelvic area), especially when you have sex

Symptoms for men

Symptoms for men may include:

- Pain or burning when you pass urine
- Discharge from the end of your penis
- Pain or discomfort at the end of your penis

How will I get my results?

If the results of your test are negative, you will receive a text saying 'all clear' or negative.

If your results are positive, you will receive a text asking you to ring the National Screening Programme. They will then advise you if you need a repeat test or if you need treatment.

If your test for chlamydia is positive, don't worry, it can be easily treated. You can get this treatment at the Sexual Health Clinic at Russells Hall Hospital where you will also be offered testing for other sexually transmitted infections at the same time. Alternatively, you can get treatment at your GP's surgery or at Sandwell and Dudley Brook.

What is the treatment for chlamydia?

A short course of an [antibiotic medicine](#) usually clears chlamydia infection. You should not have sex until you and your sexual partner have finished treatment (or for seven days after treatment with a single-dose antibiotic). You will be advised about this when you are given the antibiotic.

Untreated chlamydia can lead to chronic pelvic pain and infertility which means that you may find it difficult to get pregnant. If you are pregnant, it could also cause complications in your pregnancy.

Does my partner need to be treated?

Yes. Also, any other sexual partners you have had within the previous six months should be tested for infection. If your sexual partner is infected and not treated, then chlamydia can be passed back to you again after you are treated.

Do I need to be tested again after treatment?

After three months of having the treatment it is good to have a repeat test to make sure that the infection has gone away and that you are not re-infected.

Can I find out more?

The following websites have more information:

www.chlamydia-screening.nhs.uk

www.better2know.co.uk

www.deardudley.co.uk

If you have any questions, or if there is anything you do not understand about this leaflet, please contact:

Contraception and Sexual Health Clinic
Brierley Hill Health and Social Care Centre
Venture Way, Brierley Hill,
Telephone: 01384 321480
(9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday)

This leaflet can be downloaded or printed from:

<http://dudleygroup.nhs.uk/services-and-wards/sexual-health-community/>

This leaflet can be made available in large print, audio version and in other languages, please call 0800 073 0510.

للحصول على هذه النشرة بحجم أكبر، وعلى شكل إصدار صوتي و بلغات أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال بالرقم 08000730510.

此宣传单可提供大字版本、音频版本和其它语言版本，请拨打电话：0800 073 0510。

Ulotka dostępna jest również w dużym druku, wersji audio lub w innym języku. W tym celu zadzwoń pod numer 0800 073 0510.

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Aceasta broșura poate fi pusă la dispoziție tipărită cu caractere mari, versiune audio sau în alte limbi, pentru acest lucru va rugăm sunați la 0800 073 0510.

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