Formalised Process for Condoms Distribution and Testing for Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea in Pharmacies

This document aims to standardise the process and to provide guidance and clear pathways for all people requesting condoms and sexual health testing in pharmacies across Plymouth.

STI Testing

The National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP) advises an opportunistic offer of a chlamydia test to all sexually active young women (or others assigned female at birth) between the ages of 13-25 years. They are no longer eligible once they are aged 25. Repeat testing should be encouraged at least annually or sooner if a change in partner. If the person has frequent partner changes, then 3 monthly testing would be appropriate.

All tests sent to SHiP will be processed for both chlamydia and gonorrhoea. They should be informed of this.

Patients can be offered testing via the National Chlamydia Screening Programme in Plymouth if a **sexually active young women (or others assigned female at birth) between the ages of 13-25 years** is engaged in a conversation about their sexual health, for example by accessing emergency contraception or ongoing contraception. Please note this is an offer of a kit and if a patient declines to do the test then they do not need to take a kit home.

For the kit to be accepted it must have their own details completed on the request form within the kits. This included name, DOB, address, mobile number and consent to contact them agreed.

There is a checklist available to pharmacists to aid with the offer of a test (appendix 1). Inside the kit there are also instructions for the patient (appendix 2).

Results will be:

- Communicated via their mobile phone.
- If negative this will arrive as a text message.
- If positive (and not under the age of 16) they will be sent a text advising them of their result and that the health advising team will need to contact them for follow up.

Please note that anyone with genital symptoms that could be attributed to a sexually transmitted infection should be directed to the SHiP at Derriford.

Further test kits can be requested from plh-tr.GUMClinic@nhs.net

If someone does not meet the criteria for testing via the NCSP then please direct patients to our website, the SHiP or if under 25 and with no symptoms they can be reviewed at the Zone.

Safeguarding

All safeguarding, including for those age 13-18 will be the responsibility of the pharmacist reviewing the patient.

Condoms

The C@SHiP condom scheme is a confidential service which entitles anyone aged 13-25 living in Plymouth or Cornwall quick and easy access to free regular or latex free condoms every 12 weeks.

Within SHIP we are now operating a Patient Health Record system for the request of condoms for our young people within Plymouth. Young people can register online and request condoms and/or sexual health testing.

Where possible all young people, aged 13-18, should be encouraged and supported to attend The Zone or SHiP at Derriford face to face. Where the young person chooses not to attend face to face then they can access us remotely via phone or by the Patient Health Record system (PHR).

If they are under 16 and they choose to register online, prior to the dispatch of any condoms, or STI testing kit, a young person will receive a call from a Health Adviser to discuss their sexual health needs, ensure they are competent to make decisions and also to check they are safe from CSE/other safeguarding issues.

If over 16 via the PHR system, the registration process will include some online safeguarding questions and a Health Adviser would call the young person if any issues were identified.

Those eligible can opt for condoms to be received via post or collection from a distribution centre. We have a number of distribution centres and a full list is available on yourship.uk/contraception-pregnancy/condoms/

Patients will receive a text message (with an expiry after 4 weeks) to show to distribution sites in order to collect their condoms.

When someone attends any of the distribution sites with an in date text message please supply 24 regular condoms and 12 sachets of lubrication.

Training

At SHiP we attend the annual Devon Community Pharmacy update event and we are also delivering a new bespoke training programme which is to be run annually. The training mainly focuses on safeguarding, young people, chlamydia screening, condom distribution, emergency contraception and contraceptive pills.

We also update the Quarterly newsletter which includes safeguarding contacts, professional sexual health services in Devon, domestic abuse services information and chlamydia screening kit ordering information.

MSM

Any man who has sex with men, or trans person, should be strongly encouraged to attend The SHiP, Derriford or The Zone so that a holistic assessment, including the offer of PEP (post-exposure prophylaxis), PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) and vaccinations can be made. The Eddystone Trust also provide condoms via their condoms direct scheme available from: Free Condoms Cornwall, Plymouth, Devon, Torbay, & Gloucestershire (eddystone.org.uk)

SERVICES AT SHIP

Sexual health services available in Plymouth include:
•STI testing and treatment
•HIV testing and care
•All methods of contraception, including long-acting reversible contraception
•Emergency contraception
•Pregnancy testing and unplanned pregnancy advice
•PEP and PrEP
•Condoms and lube

Main booking line:
01752 431124
SHiPwebsite: https://yourship.uk/

SHiPDerriford Hospital-
Mon 8.10 –17.00
Tues 8.10 –12.30 (closed afternoons)
Weds 8.10 –19.00
Thurs 8.10 –19.00
Fri 8.10 –16.30
Cumberland Centre –contraception only
Mondays only 8am –8pm
Kingsbridge -
Alternate Thursdays only 2.30pm –6.30pm
The Zone (13 -25s) -Call directly on 01752 206626
Mon, Weds, Thurs 10.00 –6.30 Fri 10.00 –4.30pm
Health Advisors –available Mon-Fri for young people (U18s only) to contact direct via email:

plh-tr.ship-ha@nhs.net

PREGNANY ADVISORY LINE-01752 431124 option 2

Professionals' line:

01752 439760 (except on Tuesday afternoons, when you should call 01752 431234)
Outreach email for professionals (vulnerable patients): ccash@nhs.net
Professionals' section on the SHiP website: https://yourship.uk/for-professionals/
Including professional development section:
yourship.uk/for-professionals/professional-development/
Professionals can refer to any of the following services:

- Professional helpline
- Patient self-referral
- GP referrals
- New HIV diagnoses
- Post-coital/Emergency contraceptive IUD
- IUDs and implants (LARC)

Appendix 1: Checklist for pharmacists giving out STI kits

- ☐ Check that the kit contents are within date
- ☐ Please ensure that the patient is eligible for a test for chlamydia and gonorrhoea. The patient is eligible if they are **female (or assigned female at birth)** and aged **13-25** via the National Chlamydia Screening Programme.
- ☐ Ensure that safeguarding has been completed (particularly if under age 18)
- ☐ If they are eligible then please offer them a test kit and record the outcome of that offer (accepted or rejected).
- ☐ Explain that there are instructions inside that talk though how they can do the samples at home. If this is being advised following an episode of unprotected sex (sex without a condom) then we recommend that the test is done 2 weeks after the sex.
- ☐ Tell the patient that there is a registration form within the kit that they need to fill in with their own details so that we can contact them with their results.
- ☐ Explain that the test kit is free and that there is a freepost envelope included within the kit.
- ☐ Ensure that the patient knows that the test is done by the Sexual Health in Plymouth (SHiP) clinic based at Derriford. Please inform the patient that we are a confidential service and that we do not share their results or information beyond sexual health.
- ☐ Advise that if they have any questions they can call the SHiP at 01752 431124.
- ☐ If they have genital symptoms it is important that they call SHiP for an appointment.
- ☐ If you require more kits to restock then please contact us on plh-tr.GUMClinic@nhs.net and let us know how many grab bag kits and how many regular kits you require.

Appendix 2: Information slip to be given out within kits at pharmacies

SHiP Sexual Health in Plymouth

WHAT IS THIS TEST KIT FOR?

This kit tests for both chlamydia and gonorrhoea. These are both infections that can be passed from person to person during sex and they are treated with antibiotics. You should wait two weeks after unprotected sex (sex without a condom) before taking the sample. There are instructions within the kit which explain how to perform the test. There is also a registration form within the kit that needs to be completed with your details so that we can contact you with your results. The test is free, including free postage, and your results will be communicated to you within two weeks from when we receive it. The tests are carried out by the Sexual Health in Plymouth clinic (SHiP) based at Derriford Hospital. This is also a confidential service and the results are not shared with your GP or other departments in the hospital. If you have any questions please feel free to give us a call on 01752 431124.