

LOCAL ENHANCED SERVICE

COMMUNITY PHARMACY CHLAMYDIA SCREENING AND TREATMENT

1 BACKGROUND

Genital *Chlamydia trachomatis* infection is the sexually transmitted infection most frequently diagnosed in genitourinary medicine (GUM) clinics in England. Prevalence of infection is highest in sexually active young men and women, especially those aged less than 25 years. Untreated infection can have serious long-term consequences, particularly for women, in whom it can lead to pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), ectopic pregnancy and tubal factor infertility. Since many infections are asymptomatic, a large proportion of cases remain undiagnosed, although infection can be diagnosed easily and effectively treated.

Chlamydia screening is currently carried out across England as part of the National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP). The objective of the programme is to control chlamydia through the early detection and treatment of asymptomatic infection, preventing the development of sequelae and reducing onward transmission of the disease. The aim is a multi-faceted, evidence based and cost effective national prevention programme in which all sexually active young men and women under 25 years of age and those under 16 years of age deemed Fraser competent are aware of chlamydia, its effects, and have access to services providing screening, prevention and treatment to reduce their risk of infection, the development of untoward sequelae and onward transmission. An opportunistic approach is used bringing on board a diverse combination of healthcare and non-healthcare screening venues to deliver the programme. The voluntary and business sectors also play a key role in delivering the NCSP.

The Cambridgeshire Chlamydia Screening Programme coordinates the service in Cambridgeshire. Screening, using first-void urine samples or self-taken vulva-vaginal swabs, is initiated in a range of settings, both clinical and non-clinical. Samples can be sent in the post to Addenbrookes laboratory for analysis using the nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT) and the results are returned to the Chlamydia Screening Office; all patients are then informed of their result and contact tracing is conducted with people with positive results and treatment is offered to people who screen positive and their partners.

2 SERVICE DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 Pharmacies will provide Chlamydia screening postal test kits to asymptomatic sexually active males and females under the age of 25, for example when purchasing condoms, dispensing oral contraceptive pills and supplying EHC.
- 2.2 When giving out the kit, pharmacy staff will give advice to the young person on
 - how to utilise the kit,
 - how to return it for testing and
 - what will happen following completion of the test.
- 2.3 The Cambridgeshire Chlamydia Screening Programme will inform people of their results, the options for accessing treatment and will undertake contact tracing and partner notification.
- 2.4 Pharmacies will act as pick up points for C Card clients and will signpost clients to where C Card registration sites.
- 2.5 Pharmacies will offer a user-friendly, non-judgmental, client-centred and confidential service.
- 2.6 Pharmacies will refer young people who report symptoms to seek a full sexual health screen at local GUM services and will link into existing local networks of sexual health

and community contraceptive services so that there is a robust and rapid referral pathway for people who need onward signposting to services that provide on-going contraception and diagnosis and management of sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

- 2.7 Pharmacies will 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.
- 2.8 Pharmacies may provide treatment to men and women with laboratory confirmed asymptomatic Chlamydia and their partners in line with the NHS Cambridgeshire PGD for Azithromycin supply for Chlamydia.

3 AIMS AND INTENDED SERVICE OUTCOMES

- 3.1 To increase access to the NCSP by providing additional locations where people can access screening.
- 3.2 To increase access to treatment of Chlamydia infection.
- 3.3 To increase access for young people to sexual health advice and referral on to specialist services where required.
- 3.4 To increase clients' knowledge of the risks associated with STIs.

4 CORE SKILLS AND TRAINING

- 4.1 PCT provided training is compulsory for every staff member involved in the service. Pharmacy Assistants can offer the screening kit distribution service by attending the PCT training, but the treatment part of the service must be provided by accredited pharmacists. A minimum of one pharmacist per pharmacy should attend the PCTs training programme to become an accredited pharmacy.
- 4.2 The pharmacy contractor has the responsibility to ensure that all staff including locums involved in providing the service have appropriate knowledge and are appropriately trained i.e. attendance at a PCT organised Chlamydia training programme.
- 4.3 The pharmacy contractor has the responsibility to ensure that pharmacists and staff involved in the provision of the service are aware of and act in accordance with local protocols.
- 4.4 The pharmacy contractor has the responsibility to ensure that their service has the recommended quality controls in place and that the service can demonstrate compliance.
- 4.5 Training will be provided free of charge by the Cambridgeshire Chlamydia Screening Service.
- 4.6 Pharmacists must complete the CPPE package on Sexual Health: testing and treating to become accredited for this service
- 4.7 Pharmacists and staff providing this service should also be aware of local and national guidance on safeguarding children, as it is possible that people under the age of 16 will request screening.

5 SERVICE OUTLINE

There will be three aspects to the service;

- Chlamydia screening
- Condom distribution
- Treatment of infection

Pharmacies must sign up to Chlamydia screening to become an accredited site. The treatment of infection and condom distribution part of the service is optional.

5.1 Chlamydia Screening

- 5.1.1 The pharmacy will offer asymptomatic sexually active males and females less than 25 years of age a Chlamydia screening service; the benefits of screening will be explained. People less than 16 years of age will be provided with the service if deemed Fraser competent. People less than 16 years of age who present for screening and who are not deemed to be Fraser competent will be referred to the Cambridgeshire Chlamydia Screening Programme.
- 5.1.2 The service will be provided in compliance with Fraser guidance and Department of Health guidance on confidential sexual health advice and treatment for young people aged under 16 years.
- 5.1.3 The pharmacy staff shall complete the appropriate consent and demographic documentation with people who consent to screening and shall describe the screening process and how results will be communicated to the person.
- 5.1.4 The person will be supplied with a Chlamydia screening kit and will be encouraged to carry out the test and return this as appropriate.
- 5.1.5 Partners of laboratory confirmed asymptomatic Chlamydia patients who present for treatment should also be given a screening postal kit.

5.2 Treatment of infection

- 5.2.1 People aged under 16 years of age should be referred to the Chlamydia Screening Programme for treatment
- 5.2.2 Where the pharmacy has opted to provide a treatment service, the pharmacy shall assess the suitability of the person to receive the locally agreed antibiotic treatment, in line with the inclusion and exclusion criteria detailed in the NHS Cambridgeshire PGD for the administration and supply of Azithromycin for Chlamydia. Where appropriate a supply will be made; where a supply of the specific antibiotic is not appropriate, the person should be referred to the Cambridgeshire Chlamydia Screening Programme.
- 5.2.3 Verbal and written advice on the avoidance of STIs and the use of regular contraceptive methods, including advice on the use of condoms, shall be provided to the person. This should be supplemented by a referral to a service that can provide further advice and care where appropriate.

5.3 Condom distribution

- 5.3.1 Pharmacies will provide information about the C Card (condom distribution) scheme and signpost clients to where they can sign up to the scheme.
- 5.3.2 Pharmacies will act as condom supply points for clients registered with the C Card scheme.

5.4 General

- 5.4.1 The part of the pharmacy used for the provision of the service must provide a sufficient level of safety and privacy (including visual privacy where appropriate), which must be at the level required for the provision of the Medicines Use Review service.

- 5.4.2 The pharmacy contractor must have a standard operating procedure in place for this service. The pharmacy contractor must ensure that pharmacists and staff involved in the provision of the service are aware of and operate within national and locally agreed protocols.
- 5.4.3 The pharmacy must maintain appropriate records to ensure effective ongoing service delivery and audit. Records are confidential and should be stored securely and for a length of time in line with local NHS record retention policies.
- 5.4.4 The PCT will monitor and feed back the Chlamydia test kit return rate to individual pharmacies and may investigate where the return rate is consistently low (for example below 25%).

6 PCT RESPONSIBILITIES

- 6.1 The materials required, such as Chlamydia screening kits and condoms, will be supplied free of charge to the pharmacy by the PCT.
- 6.2 The PCT will provide a framework for the recording of relevant service information for the purposes of audit and the claiming of payment.
- 6.3 The PCT will provide up to date details of other services which pharmacy staff can use to refer on service users who require further assistance.
- 6.4 The PCT will arrange training for the scheme and contractor meetings to promote service development and update pharmacy staff with new developments, knowledge and evidence.
- 6.5 The PCT will be responsible for the provision of health promotion and other promotional materials, for example leaflets on STIs, to pharmacies.
- 6.6 The PCT will coordinate the promotion of the service locally, including the development of publicity materials and the use of nationally produced materials, in order to ensure young people and other local health care providers are aware that the service is available from local pharmacies. Pharmacies should use these materials to promote the service to the public and should ensure they coordinate their promotional activities with those of the PCT.

7 PHARMACY RESPONSIBILITIES

- 7.1 The pharmacy will complete and return the monthly monitoring data required by the PCT in a timely fashion, i.e. by deadline set by the PCT
- 7.2 The pharmacy has appropriate PCT provided health promotion material available for the user group and promotes its uptake.
- 7.3 The pharmacy reviews its standard operating procedures and the referral pathways for the service.
- 7.4 The pharmacy should be able to demonstrate that pharmacists and staff involved in the provision of the service have undertaken CPD relevant to this service and PCT organised training provided by accredited trainers
- 7.5 The pharmacy participates in PCT organised audit of service provision where required and will co-operate with the PCT's inspection, monitoring and evaluation procedures which may include inspections to evaluate and record the Service Provider's performance.
- 7.6 The pharmacy co-operates with any locally agreed PCT-led assessment of service user experience.
- 7.7 The pharmacy will nominate a named individual who will act as a point of contact for this service.

8 REMUNERATION

- Pharmacies will be paid **£2.50 for each test kit given out.** Pharmacies will be required to complete a monthly monitoring form detailing number of kits distributed. Payment will be made by the PCT on receipt of the monthly claim form.
- Pharmacies will be paid **£5.00 for each valid completed test returned.** Information on test kits returned will be obtained from the Chlamydia Screening Service on a monthly basis. Payments will be made to pharmacies on receipt of this information.
- Pharmacies will be paid **£7.50 per treatment consultation.** Plus reimbursement of the drug cost (most recent drug tariff price).

9 TERMINATION

9.1 Either party (pharmacy or PCT) shall be entitled to terminate this agreement (for example due to movement of accredited staff) by giving one months notice in writing to the other party,

10 AGREEMENT PERIOD

- 10.1 This agreement will continue until April 2009 unless terminated by either party in accordance with the provision of this Agreement.
- 10.2 The service will be reviewed annually. Upon review of the service, it is anticipated that the service will continue on a 12 month rolling contract. Pharmacies will be required to sign the agreement each financial year to continue providing the service.

11 AGREEMENT

I agree to participate in the following aspects of the Chlamydia screening service and to the terms and conditions of the above service specification

- Chlamydia screening – distribution of kits
- Condom distribution
- Treatment of infection

Signature..... Name (PRINT).....
(Pharmacist/Pharmacy Manager)

Date..... Pharmacy.....