

# Sexual Health Update

November 2023

In October, Public Health received information that some members of the public who tried to access sexual health services (i.e. EHC, dual testing, condoms) available from several commissioned pharmacies, were told they are no longer offering the service, or staff were unaware of the services provided under the service level agreement (SLA).

HCC are now unable to refer people to community pharmacies due to inconsistency in service delivery and the support offered. This not only causes reputational damage to the council and pharmacy but most importantly, people needing sexual health services including those under 18 years of age are left unsupported and at risk.

Public Health have raised these concerns with Community Pharmacy Hertfordshire.

If you are no longer offering this service or unable to meet the minimum requirements (e.g. 5 EHC per year) as stated within the agreed SLA, please contact [phcommissioning@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:phcommissioning@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

In the meantime, and as a matter of urgency, please ensure that:

- All staff are aware a 'dual test' is for chlamydia and gonorrhoea and where they are stored on the premises
- Dual Testing posters are clearly displayed (see below)
- If you have no tests in stock, contact 0208 102 4894 or email [clcht.chlamydiascreeningservice@nhs.net](mailto:clcht.chlamydiascreeningservice@nhs.net).
- When referring patients remember free dual tests are available from [Sexual Health Hertfordshire](#) or online [www.getit.org.uk/](http://www.getit.org.uk/)
- Emergency contraception is also available from Sexual Health Hertfordshire or on-line via [SH:24](#) for women 16 years and above.
- If a young person is unable to use online services, please call 0300 008 5522.

A range of dual testing resources are available to promote in your pharmacy. 'Get dual testing' posters and images for social media can be downloaded from:

[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/dualtestprofessionals](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/dualtestprofessionals)

Printed copies and training can be requested from:

[sexualhealthhertfordshire@metrocharity.org.uk](mailto:sexualhealthhertfordshire@metrocharity.org.uk)

# Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea Screening

During July -September 2023, 84 dual testing kits issued by the community pharmacies listed below, were returned to the lab. Of those 61 were female and 23 were male. This resulted in 5 positives for Chlamydia and 1 for Gonorrhoea.

- Wellswood Pharmacy (Hertford)
  - Bushey Pharmacy
  - Normandy pharmacy (St Albans)
  - \*Topkins Pharmacy (Harpenden)
  - Cassiobury Pharmacy (Watford)
  - Chemilab Pharmacy (Watford)
  - FT Taylor (Watford)
  - Springfield (Harpenden)
  - Abbotswood Park (Watford)
  - Asda (Watford)
  - Leavesden Pharmacy
  - Jhoots (St Albans)
  - \*Jade (St Peters Street, St Albans)
- Boots (Letchworth)
  - Jackmans Pharmacy (Letchworth)
  - Clayton Pharmacy (Cheshunt)
  - Asda (Stevenage)
  - Boots Queensway Stevenage
  - Johns & Kelynack (WGC)
  - Crescent Pharmacy (St Albans)
  - One Stop Pharmacy (Watford)
  - Parade Pharmacy (Rickmansworth)
  - Ashwell Pharmacy
  - Well (Hertford)
  - Woods (Hemel)
  - \*Asda (Hatfield)

*\*Jade, Topkins and Asda Hatfield all had 9 kits returned*

## EHC

233 EHC interactions in Q2.  
Pharmacies with 5 or more EHC procedures (July -September2023) :

Pharmacy	EHC	Pharmacy	EHC
Johns & Kelynack Pharmacy (WGC)	34	Springfield Pharmacy (Harpenden)	8
Boots UK Limited (Hatfield)	18	FT Taylor (Watford)	7
Asda (Hatfield)	16	One Stop Pharmacy (Watford)	7
Leavesden Pharmacy	16	Hubert Figg Pharmacy (Berkhamsted)	6
Quadrant Pharmacy (St Albans)	16	Boots UK Ltd (Stevenage Queensway)	5
Greenlight Pharmacy (Borehamwood)	11	Jackmans Pharmacy (Letchworth)	5
Trinity Pharmacy (Bishop Stortford)	10	Parade Pharmacy (Rickmansworth)	5
Laxtons Pharmacy (Broxbourne)	9	Russell Avenue Pharmacy (St Albans)	5
Asda (Watford)	8	Topkins Pharmacy (Harpenden)	5

- 22 Pharmacies delivered 1-4 EHC procedures
- 51 Pharmacies with no EHC interaction
- 40% of EHC procedures resulted in a Dual Testing Kit being supplied
- 23% of EHC procedures resulted a condom wallet being supplied

# Dual Testing Research – Can you help?

With an increase in Sexually Transmitted Infections in England including Hertfordshire, the Public Health Team at Hertfordshire County Council are working with Hitch Marketing on a research project. Its aim is to better understand the barriers and facilitators for people to request a test. The research will also aim to understand the barriers and facilitators for pharmacists to promote and offer dual testing kits.

Public Health are looking for pharmacists in Hertfordshire with a current Service Level Agreement to deliver sexual health services to be involved in the research project.

## 4 x Interviews

Hitch will first be conducting four 20-minute interviews with pharmacists to understand the barriers and facilitators you may face in relation to promoting dual testing. The interviews will take place online, or over the phone. All research collected will be treated as anonymous.

Interviews will take place between 30th October and 17th November. Researchers from Hitch are available Monday & Friday between 9am & 8pm to conduct interviews. Anyone who takes part in an interview will receive a **£40 Amazon voucher** as a thank you for their time.

## Online workshop

Hitch will then be holding an 1.5 hour online workshop with 8 pharmacists to develop promotional materials and interventions to help pharmacists promote dual testing in a way that works for you. Anyone who attends will be provided with a **£60 Amazon voucher**.

The online workshop will take place Thursday 23rd November (time TBC and we will pick a time that works for you).

If you are interested in taking part, please contact Hitch using the email address below:

[megan@hitchmarketing.co.uk](mailto:megan@hitchmarketing.co.uk)

Additionally, if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out and contact Hitch using the email address above.