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GET TESTED

for gonorrheoa and chlamydia today

FREE

Discreet, easy-to-use ‘dual test’ kits

Delivering a dual testing service in your pharmacy

Providing Sexual Health Services

Your pharmacy has a contract with Hertfordshire County Council to deliver the following services:

- Free Emergency hormonal contraception (EHC) 13 years and above under a Patient Group Directive (PGD.) All females are to be registered with a GP in Hertfordshire

- Free Chlamydia/Gonorrhoea testing kits (commonly referred to as dual testing kits) to people 13 years and above, for example when service user requests a kit and when supplying EHC

- Free condoms to people 13 years and above including those accessing EHC and/or Chlamydia/Gonorrhoea testing

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Safeguarding

- The Pharmacy team has a statutory duty of care to all patients and the wider public, which includes promoting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.
- When a child is under 16 years of age, pharmacists must abide by the provisions of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and apply the Fraser Guidelines and child protection guidelines in dealing with a request for sexual health services.
- If you have any concerns or questions speak to your designated safeguarding lead.

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About the dual tests

- A dual test can be used by anyone aged over 15 to test for Chlamydia and/or Gonorrhoea.
- A person should wait 2 weeks after they think they have been exposed to an infection, before taking the test. This is because Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea can take up to 2 weeks to be detected in a test.
- The test includes a vaginal swab (female) or a urine test (male or female).
- A urine test should ideally be done at least 1 hour after the person last urinated
- Like a covid test, the relevant test is completed and is then returned in the pre-paid envelope.
- Individuals can either come to a participating pharmacy, GP, Healthy Hub and Youth Services or request the test be sent to their home address.
- See more information here.

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- A person declaring symptoms suggestive of a sexually transmitted infection (STI), should be referred to Sexual Health Hertfordshire (0300 008 5522)
- Ensure that the person knows how to do the test correctly to reduce the likelihood of false test results.
- Ensure the person knows how to complete the form inside the kit correctly, including two forms of contact for results.
- To reduce the risk of an STI, offer a free wallet of condoms and lubrication

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Raise awareness of sexual health services provided by pharmacies and normalise this service

- There is no expectation for staff to offer dual tests to those who access your pharmacy, but some people may come in and ask for one
- Display the dual test posters within your pharmacy and electronic displays (if available)
- Consider offering a leaflet about dual testing when a person is buying contraceptive products, pregnancy tests, or thrush product
- Saying something like ‘this is just for information’ – then the person can always come back if they need a test. This can allow them to come back at a quieter time too

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Offering a dual test as part of an EHC consultation

- A discussion can be held when holding a consultation about emergency hormonal contraception (EHC).
- This can just be a general introduction - ‘as part of this consultation we give everyone a dual test.’
- Without pushing, explain what the dual kit is and its health benefits - not all STIs have symptoms. Being diagnosed and treated as soon as possible will reduce your risk of developing any serious health issues and stop the spread of the infection to others
- Then see if they would like to take up the offer of a test. If they don’t you could provide a leaflet for if they change their mind

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Opportunities to be discreet

- Cards can be placed next to contraceptive products / pregnancy tests in the pharmacy to allow a person to come to the till and request a test without needing to ask. This removes the barrier of the customer not having the confidence to speak to staff.
- Provide the tests in discreet packaging (prescription bag) as some people feel uncomfortable about the packaging.

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Provide the tests for people to pick up themselves

- Make the dual test kits available for people to pick up from a shelf in the shop. The kits could be placed somewhere discreet or next to contraceptive products and pregnancy tests.

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Training / mirroring

- Ask a pharmacist who is experienced in having conversations about sexual health to spend some time with you, role playing these conversations or talking through examples/approaches
- Ask if you can sit in on Emergency Contraception consultation with the consent of the customer
- Act out a scenario, of a customer requesting a test after seeing it advertised on social media. Do staff know where kits are kept, remind the customer to complete the form inside the kit, offer a free condom wallet

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Dealing with possible offence

- If someone comes across as offended about being given a leaflet or advice you could say ‘many STIs are symptomless, so across Hertfordshire a range of services are helping to raise awareness about STI testing services available in the community and make sure people stay healthy.’
- Use terms like ‘partner’ rather than ‘boyfriend’, ‘husband’ or ‘girlfriend, wife’ to be inclusive of all customers.
- On the basis of a person requesting Emergency Contraception to prevent pregnancy, they can use either a vaginal swab or urine sample kit. If recommending a kit for the partner, they should be given a urine sample kit.
- If a person asks for a dual testing kit and you are unsure of their biological sex, explain there are two kits available (vaginal swab or urine sample) and allow them to decide which is most suitable. In some cases, they could be getting a kit for a friend or partner.

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Further information:

Local sexual health services and interactive map listing of other dual testing , EHC and condom providers
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/sexualhealth

Specialist sexual health services (contraception, treatment and testing)
www.sexualhealthhertfordshire.clch.nhs.uk

Online dual testing kits and condoms, sexual health information
www.getit.org.uk

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