



SEXUAL HEALTH Update

Provided by your Sexual Health Clinics

HIV/STI CONTACT TRACING IN GENERAL PRACTICE

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General practice provides most sexual health care in NSW and contact tracing is an important part of a comprehensive HIV/STI control program. However like many doctors you may be unclear about your contact tracing responsibilities.¹ Most people diagnosed with an STI feel that informing their sexual partners is the right thing to do so won't be surprised when you talk with them about contact tracing.² **In NSW, it is the treating doctor's responsibility to ensure contact tracing occurs, and to support patients in notifying sexual partners.**

How can I support my patients with HIV/STI Contact Tracing?

- Assist the patient to identify which partners need to be contacted.
- Offer choice to patients on the best way to inform their partners.
- Different options might suit different partners.

1. Patient notifies their own partners - Partner Referral

Let your patient know you or your practice staff will follow up with a phone call (or at the next visit). If they haven't been able to let their partners know, then offer further assistance. The expectation of follow up increases the chance that patients will inform their partners.³

PATIENT REFERRAL CONTACT TRACING TOOLS:

STI Other than HIV



www.letthemknow.org.au

For anyone.



www.thedramadownunder.info

For men who have sex with men (MSM) with information about STIs. Offers the option of notifying contacts via email or SMS.



www.bettertoknow.org.au

Aimed at Aboriginal People with information about STIs. Offers the option of notifying contacts via email or SMS.

HIV and STI



NSW Sexual Health Infolink

1800 451 624 Patients or partners can ring and speak with a Specialist Sexual Health Nurses Mon-Fri 9am-5pm.

2. GP notifies patient's partners - Provider Referral

You, a delegate such as a primary care nurse or, if a complex issue, referred to your local sexual health service. The identity of the index patient must not be disclosed to contacts.

Provider referral is the preferred option for HIV. In NSW a new HIV diagnosis will prompt an offer of assistance from a Local Health District expert who will help you provide your patient with the 5 key support areas including contact tracing.

For more information on the NSW HIV Support Program,⁴ see www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/hiv/Documents/hiv-support-program-information-sheet.pdf

Need assistance or information on Contact Tracing?

- STI Contact Tracing Tool for General Practice: www.stipu.nsw.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/GP-Contact-Tracing-Tool.pdf
- Australasian Contact Tracing Manual: <http://ctm.ashm.org.au/>

SUMMARY

Effective contact tracing prevents reinfection and onward transmission of STIs. It is the treating doctor's responsibility to ensure contact tracing occurs, and to support their patients in notifying sexual partners.

CONTACT TRACING PRACTICE TIPS

1. If Patient notifies own partners- Patient Referral

- Talk through the information to be shared with partners
- Provide written material or web links.
- Patients can inform a partner by letter, email or SMS
- Practice staff may be able to help the patient send an email or SMS to their partners before leaving the practice.

2. If GP notifies partners - Provider Referral

- Preferred method for HIV infection
- Get the consent of the patient
- Document discussions
- Refer to local sexual health service if complex or unsuccessful

Call your local sexual health clinic or the **NSW Sexual Health Infolink** on 1800 451 624 for assistance

¹ Burnet Institute Partner Notification of Sexually Transmitted Infections In New South Wales: An Informed Literature Review June 2010 page 21

² ibid page 36

³ Edmiston, N., T. Merritt, and C. Ooi, Make contact: a comparative study of contact tracing strategies (In Press), Hunter New England Area Health Service: Newcastle.

⁴ <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/hiv/Documents/hiv-support-program-information-sheet.pdf> Accessed March 3, 2015

NEW ONLINE COURSE FOR GPs

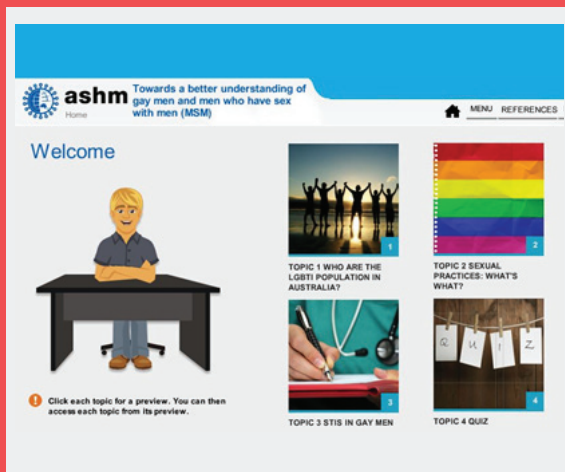
A new online learning module aims to inform GPs who wish to become more 'gay friendly'.

The case-based modules explore stigma and discrimination, sexual health screening, common STIs, and specific issues faced by gay men and men who have sex with men (MSM).

Duration:
1 hour

CPD:
RACGP 2 Category 2 QI&CPD points

Target Audience:
GPs, health professionals



Learning Objectives:

1. Recognise that Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex (LGBTI) communities have diverse health needs
2. Have greater confidence taking a sexual health history
3. Identify common STIs in gay men and men who have sex with men (MSM)
4. Follow guidelines for STI testing and management in asymptomatic MSM
5. Understand common health issues faced by gay men and MSM

To access the **Gay Friendly GP OLM**, go to the ASHM Learning Management System (LMS) <https://lms.ashm.org.au> and register for your login. Then scroll down until you see the Gay Friendly GP OLM.

STIGMA (STIs in Gay Men Action group) in partnership with ASHM, ACON, Albion Centre and SESLHD have developed a Gay Friendly GP Online Learning Module (OLM).

Developed for GPs who wish to become more 'gay friendly', the OLM focuses on the diversity of health needs within the LGBTI community.

We value your opinion

GP SURVEY: HAVE YOUR SAY ON STI TESTING IN MSM

You are invited to participate in a 5 minutes survey of the 'Study of the impact of 2014 STI and HIV Testing Guidelines for Asymptomatic Men who have Sex with Men and barriers to testing practice among general practitioners (GPs) in Sydney'.

To participate, you can either complete an online questionnaire via www.surveymonkey.com/s/stigmagpsurvey or a hard copy enclosed with this newsletter.

Your assistance in completing this survey is greatly appreciated. This study has been approved by Ethics Review Committee.



STIs in Gay Men Action Group
A public health partnership formed to provide a coordinated response to reduce and prevent STIs in inner Sydney gay men.

Sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing in men who have sex with men (MSM) - Study of the Impact of 2014 STI and HIV Testing Guidelines for Asymptomatic MSM and barriers to testing practice among general practitioners in Sydney

Information statement

Introduction
You are invited to participate in a study assessing STI testing for men who have sex with men (MSM) in clinical practice among general practitioners (GPs) in Sydney. We hope to learn about the testing practices of GPs and how this compares with current recommendations. The questions will also explore your opinions on factors that influence testing practice and awareness of recommendations.

The study is a collaborative project supported by STIGMA (STIs in Gay Men Action group), a public health partnership formed in 2000 to provide a coordinated response to reduce and prevent STIs in inner Sydney gay men.

Study Procedures
If you decide to participate, you will be asked to take 5 minutes to complete this online questionnaire via SurveyMonkey. The questionnaire asks for no identifying information about yourself or practice.

THE GAY FRIENDLY GP LIST

<http://www.acon.org.au/lgbti-health/sexual-health/> - Go to STI Testing & Treatment Section

If you would like to nominate yourself on this Gay friendly GP list so that we may refer gay men to GPs with particular interest in and knowledge of working with gay men,

Please contact Elissa Magner, ph: 9382 7444 or email: elissa.magner@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au

SUBSCRIBE

We extend an invitation to GPs, practice nurses and relevant clinicians to receive this free twice-yearly newsletter and updates on sexual health.

To subscribe please email your name, job title and workplace to:

Jeffrey.Dabhadatta@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au

SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICES



Health
South Eastern Sydney
Local Health District

Sydney Sexual Health Centre

www.sshc.org.au
Macquarie St, Sydney
ph: 02 9382 7440

Short Street Centre

Short Street, Kogarah
ph: 02 9113 2742

SouthZone Sexual Health Centre

Community Health Centre,
Sutherland Hospital
ph: 02 9113 2742

The Albion Centre

www.thealbioncentre.org.au
150 Albion Street, Surry Hills
ph: 02 9332 9600

Clinic 180

180 Victoria Street, Kings Cross
ph: 02 9357 1299



Health
Sydney
Local Health District

RPA Sexual Health

www.slhd.nsw.gov.au/communityHealth/sexualHealth.html

Marsden Street, Camperdown
ph: 02 9515 1200



Health
Northern Sydney
Local Health District

Clinic 16

www.clinic16.com.au
Herbert Street, St Leonards
ph: 02 9462 9500

SEXUAL HEALTH *link*
INFO **1800 451 624**



Play Safe

www.playsafe.health.nsw.gov.au



STIs in Gay Men Action Group

This newsletter is an initiative of the STIs in Gay Men Action group (STIGMA). It is written for general practitioners, practice nurses and relevant clinicians in inner Sydney.

Partners include:

South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, Sydney Local Health District, Northern Sydney Local Health District, Ministry of Health, ASHM NSW, Eastern Sydney Medicare Local, Inner West Sydney Medicare Local, Sydney North Shore and Beaches Medicare Local, Centre for Social Research in Health, The Kirby Institute, Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO), Positive Life NSW and ACON.

Feedback and suggestions to:

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