

Information for Sexual Partners of People with Genital Chlamydia Infections

Dear _____ (Partner's given name only)

Date _____

A sexual partner of yours has just been treated for a sexually transmitted infection. This means that you may also be infected. The infection is called **chlamydia** (*C. trachomatis*) and most cases of chlamydia are easily cured with antibiotics.

Chlamydia bacteria can infect the womb (cervix) in women and the tube inside the penis (urethra) in men. Sometimes it can infect the throat and anus of both men and women. **Many people do not know they have the infection, as there may be NO signs or symptoms.**

In women the symptoms may be:	In men the symptoms may be:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a vaginal discharge; • a burning feeling when passing urine; • deep pain or bleeding during or after vaginal sex. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a white or clear fluid discharge from the penis; • a burning feeling when passing urine; • long term irritation within their penis, or testicles • pain in the joints.

If left untreated, chlamydia can cause pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) in women, which can lead to chronic pain and future difficulty in becoming pregnant.

Partners of people with chlamydia need to be treated even if they have no symptoms. If partners are not treated then there is a possibility of becoming infected again during sex. If your tests show that you are also infected then any sexual partners you have had unsafe sex with (without condom use) are at high risk of the infection.

Please see a doctor and show them this letter. The doctor will need to do a urine or swab test, and give you antibiotics. If treated early chlamydia can be easily cured with a single dose of antibiotics. Advanced chlamydia and PID in women may need longer courses of antibiotics.

Information for Your Doctor

The majority of patients with chlamydia will be asymptomatic. However, patients may present with a number of clinical symptoms and signs, including urethral discharge, dysuria, abdominal or pelvic pain, mucopurulent cervicitis, vaginal discharge and irregular vaginal bleeding.

It is recommended that sexual partners of a person with genital chlamydial infection should be tested, and **treated at the time of presentation and regardless of the absence of symptoms** to reduce the risk of further spread of the infection. The currently recommended treatment for *asymptomatic cases or uncomplicated cervicitis and urethritis* is:

Azithromycin 1g orally as a single dose	OR	Doxycycline 100mg orally 12-hourly for 7-10 days
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For recommendations on alternative antibiotic regimens, the treatment of pregnant women and the treatment of complicated chlamydial infections, please refer to the latest edition of the *Antibiotic Guidelines*¹ and the *National Management Guidelines for Sexually Transmissible Infections*².

If you or your patient have any questions or concerns please contact the Department of Human Services' partner notification officer on telephone (03) 9637 4114 or the Melbourne Sexual Health Centre's duty physician on (03) 9347 0244.

¹ Working Group for Therapeutic Guidelines: Antibiotic 2003, *Therapeutic Guidelines: Antibiotic*, version 12, Therapeutic Guidelines Limited, Melbourne.

² Venereology Society of Victoria 2002, *National Management Guidelines for Sexually Transmissible Infections*, Venereology Society of Victoria, Melbourne.