

Chlamydia Screening

Chlamydia is the most common sexually transmitted infection (STI) in the UK.

It affects both sexes and young people are most at risk. If you are under 25 and sexually active you have a 1 in 10 chance of having chlamydia.

Are there any symptoms?

In females, symptoms include cystitis, a change in vaginal discharge or vaginal bleeding and lower abdominal pain. In males there may be irritation and a discharge from the tip of the penis.

The problem is that most people do not have any symptoms. 80% of females and 50% of males with chlamydia do not have any symptoms at all so do not know they have it.

Why is it important to treat?

If chlamydia is not treated it can cause long term problems. In females it can cause a chronic pelvic infection that may damage the fallopian tubes and cause infertility, in males it can cause inflamed and swollen testicles and also affect sperm function and male fertility.

How is it treated?

Chlamydia is easily treated with antibiotics. Normally this means just taking four antibiotic tablets at the same time and the infection is then treated. Sometimes a longer course of antibiotics may be needed.

How do I test for chlamydia?

Testing for chlamydia is easy and free.

For those under 25 there is a self-test pack for chlamydia. Ask your doctor, nurse or at reception for a test pack. You can then do the test for chlamydia yourself at the surgery. The test is very easy and for females involves inserting a swab into the lower vaginal area, for males the test can be done on a sample of urine.

The chlamydia self-test pack (for under 25s) is part of a national screening programme that Park Surgery is involved with.

What if I am over 25?

Please ask your GP or nurse about testing for chlamydia.