

To all pharmacies in:
Bristol, South Gloucestershire and North
Somerset

22nd March 2017



Provided by:



Dear colleague,

Re: Changes to Sexual Health Services in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) from 1st April 2017

From 1st April 2017, University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust takes over the BNSSG contract for integrated sexual health, complex contraception and pregnancy advisory services. We will be providing this integrated service under the name '**Unity Sexual Health**', and in the coming months we will be launching a new website and promoting the new service.

Unity Sexual Health is led by University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust (UH Bristol), but brings together seven other partner organisations; each bringing specific areas of expertise and experience to deliver parts of the new service and help us improve clinical outcomes.

Organisations	Role
UH Bristol	Lead provider - Includes Unity Central (previously known as Bristol Sexual Health Services) and Unity Community Clinics Unity Central will continue to provide a complex contraception, sexually transmitted infections (STI) care (Level 3 service) and a pregnancy advisory service (PAS). Unity Central will provide a central booking service for all clinical services (except terminations) for each of the providers. It will also provide an enhanced health intelligence, training and support service to Unity partners and others delivering sexual health services.
Brook Young People	Level 1 & 2 Sexual Health service to young people under 20 across Bristol, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset
British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS)	Pregnancy advice and termination service in North Somerset [from Jun 2017]
Marie Stopes International (MSI)	Pregnancy advice and termination services in Bristol and South Gloucestershire. MSI will also provide central booking for terminations for all TOPs providers.
North Bristol NHS Trust (NBT)	Termination of pregnancy service
Terrence Higgins Trust & The Eddystone Trust	Health promotion and campaigning service
Weston Area Health NHS Trust	A complex STI care and contraception sexual health service in North Somerset and a dedicated young person's clinic

Unity Sexual Health

Central Health Clinic, Tower Hill, Bristol BS2 0JD

T. 0117 342 6900 W. unitysexualhealth.co.uk

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❖ **Changes we want you to know about from April 2017**

1. **Access to telephone advice for health professionals** from Unity Central (previously known as Bristol Sexual Health Services) will not change. The telephone number remains **0117 3426933**, and is available during clinic opening times
2. **The Chlamydia Screening Programme (CSP)** physically moves from Bristol City Council to be based at the Bristol Central Health Clinic. Access to a chlamydia test has not changed. From 1st April, the Chlamydia screening team can be contacted on **0117 3429299**
3. **Pregnancy Advisory Services** – The Central Booking Line number is not changing and remains: **0345 8725435**. Service users and health professionals should use this telephone number for initial access to the service. **Please note - pregnancy advisory referrals can no longer be made direct to Weston Hospital.** The updated Abortion referral pathway is attached.
4. **The WISH Clinic at Weston Hospital** will be open for walk in and booked appointments on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Fridays each week. Its evening clinic runs every Tuesday until 7.30pm. A dedicated under 20's young person's clinic commences at Weston Hospital (WISH) on Saturday morning from 22nd April, and then taking place on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month. This will operate on a walk in and booked basis.
5. **C-Card scheme (Bristol)** – there are no changes to the current arrangements for distribution.

❖ **We recognise and value the significant part other organisations play in the wider sexual health services arena. This includes, but is not limited to:**

- Sexual health services provided in general practice;
- Sexual health services provided in pharmacies;
- HIV treatment and support services;
- Relationship and sex education in schools
- Menopause management advice
- Fitting of LARC for gynaecological reasons only

❖ **Over the next year there will be a number of further developments and innovations:**

1. Unity Sexual Health launches its new interactive Website
2. Introduction of an online self-testing kit service for service users who are asymptomatic.
3. The new North Somerset (BPAS) pregnancy advisory clinic commences, every Thursday from June, based at the WISH clinic in Weston Hospital
4. A level 3 service will operate in the South Gloucestershire area.
5. Changes to Community clinic locations, opening hours and access criteria will come into operation. These will be sent to you in advance of the changes coming into effect.

As these come on stream, there will be further communications.

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❖ **What benefits do we expect for our patients and service users?**

During the first year of operation, Unity Sexual Health will introduce several new developments for service users:

- A safer service with different partners able to communicate more easily about their care if needed.
- By integrating services across BNSSG we will be able to remove barriers to safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults
- Focussing on the vulnerable under 20's in our young people's services to promote good sexual health.
- Unity will have the responsibility for health promotion in addition to the clinical services. The benefit of this is to link the sexual health needs of the population to an education campaign or target testing to a particular group.
- As an integrated regional service, in partnership with Public Health England, we will also be using our extensive laboratory and patient data to pinpoint where there is a greater need to target testing and health promotion activity. This enhanced health intelligence will make us both more efficient and effective.

❖ **What about the future?**

Unity Sexual Health aims to provide a dynamic model of care with the service evolving to meet new and changing needs. Community pharmacies are a vital and valued part of this. Overseeing these changes we have established the Unity Sexual Health Senate. Richard Brown, Chief Officer, Avon Local Pharmaceutical Committee (LPC), as your representative, has agreed to participate in this Senate.

On behalf of University Hospitals Bristol, we wish to welcome you to Unity Sexual Health, and look forward to working with you over the next five years to deliver outstanding integrated sexual health services across Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire. Please contact the Unity Sexual Health leadership team at sexualhealth@uhbristol.nhs.uk if you have any questions or require further information.

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Lorraine Warr, Service Manager, Unity Sexual Health

Ann Steele Nicholson, Matron, Unity Sexual Health

March 2017

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