GUIDELINES FOR MANAGEMENT OF CHLAMYDIA POSITIVE CLIENTS AND THEIR PARTNERS

CHLAMYDIA SCREENING OFFICE ADDRESS:
Moss Side Health Centre
Monton St
Moss Side
Manchester
M14 4GP
Tel: 0800 046 1303
Fax 08432 166266

Guidance developed in accordance with the Department of Health recommendations for the treatment of Chlamydia positive clients tested within the National Chlamydia screening programme, and nationally agreed standard’s from the manual of health advising practice produced by SSHA

This guidance applies to the services providing treatment as part of the RU Clear Chlamydia Screening Programme and who undertake treatment and partner notification for Chlamydia positive clients and their partners.

This guidance is supplementary to PGDs for treatment of Chlamydia
1. Introduction
2. Booking of treatment clinics
3. Treatment slots, (PGDs, DNAs, symptoms, confirmation)
4. Patients without appointments
5. Drugs
6. Record Keeping
7. Partner Treatment
8. Partner Notification Standards and definitions
9. Test of Cure
10. Audit
11. Useful contacts
12. Greater Manchester Sexual Health Clinics
INTRODUCTION

The RU Clear Programme is provided by a network of services across Greater Manchester, working to common protocols, with coordination provided by the RU Clear Team.

Treatment for Chlamydia is provided by a range of providers – Pharmacies, Nurses, Sexual Health Services and GPs.
These different individuals and agencies are subject to their own clinical governance procedures, policies and Patient Group Directives.

These Guidelines offer comprehensive recommendations needed for the effective management of young people who have tested positive for Chlamydia trachomatis in the RU Clear Programme.

BOOKING OF TREATMENT CLINICS

The RU Clear office (RUCO) coordinates the booking of patients and their partners into treatment appointments.

The service providing the treatment appointment will be notified by the RUCO using fax safe haven procedures.

Pharmacies will usually be contacted by telephone first to confirm a pharmacist is available to do the treatment.

The treatment site will receive a copy of the patient’s test result along with the booking details which include date & time of attendance.
TREATMENT SLOTS

Time needs to be allowed to discuss the diagnosis, implications, partner notification and for discussion of prevention strategies for the future.

*Reception & counter staff should be made aware of referrals for treatment from the RUCO.*

*Patients are often anxious about how they will be managed at this stage.*

**DNAs**
Any patients who do not attend an appointment should be notified to the RUCO. The results team will endeavour to contact the patient again and try and rearrange another appointment.

**PGDs**
Many of our treatment sites will have staff working to Patient Group Directives (PGDs). Individuals will be accountable to their own PGD in their assessment of the patient and ability to treat.

**SYMPTOMS**
Any patients who present with symptoms of pelvic pain or testicular pain/swelling should be referred to their local Sexual Health Clinic for management. The RUCO must be informed if this done

*Please note the results team will always assess patients for symptoms at time of arranging their treatment appointment & will refer appropriately.*
TREATMENT CONFIRMATION

It is important that the RUCO receives confirmation that a patient has attended for treatment. Completed documentation (including Partner Notification form) to be faxed to 08432 166266 in a case where you are unable to fax, please call to advise of treatment on 0800 046 1303.

Case notes and patient information should be kept as per local records management policy.

PATIENTS WITHOUT APPOINTMENTS

There may be occasions when someone turns up without an appointment seeking treatment as a contact of Chlamydia.

If a patient or contact attends requesting treatment and has a letter or text message then they should be managed as per booked appointments.

If a contact attends without a contact card or provider referral letter, as much detail as possible should be obtained about the index client.

The diagnosis of the index should be confirmed where possible, (contact the RUCO) treatment can then be given as per booked appointments. If this cannot be confirmed then treatment can be given at the discretion of the provider. If it is thought inappropriate to offer treatment the client can contact the RU Clear Office.
**DRUGS**

Azithromycin 1G orally in a single dose is the first line choice for the treatment of uncomplicated Chlamydia. To be given at time of attendance. Patients are advised not to eat anything 1hr before their appointment.

Drugs should be kept and issued in accordance with local storage and dispensing of medicines policies. Stock levels should be monitored to ensure there are enough drugs to treat patients and partners.

Visit [www.bashh.org](http://www.bashh.org) for National treatment guidelines on the management of uncomplicated Chlamydia infection.

**RECORD KEEPING**

The treatment site should fulfil the requirements of local patient care pathways documentation as well as record their action on the RU Clear paperwork. Fax paperwork to RU CO using safe haven procedure.

Information received by the RU CO is inputted onto the secure data base (Excelicare)

**PARTNER TREATMENT**

Patients who are in a relationship are always encouraged to take their partner with them when they attend for treatment. If this arrangement has been agreed by the results team, the treatment site will be informed.

Partners should always be encouraged to test as well as have treatment.

*Partners who present & are experiencing symptoms of pelvic pain/testicular pain or swelling should be referred to their local sexual health clinic for management.*

It is important that the RU CO can match partner information with the index patient details. Treatment sites must record appropriate information on the fax back form or C form.

*For those partners that choose to test, ensure the Chlamydia reference number of the partner is entered/recorded on the fax back form or C form to allow results to be matched up to treatment.*
PARTNER NOTIFICATION

The purpose of partner notification is to help control the spread of infection and to prevent re-infection by identifying and informing (wherever possible) the sexual partners or contacts of those people who have been diagnosed with a sexually transmitted infection (STI).

Partner notification is always discussed when patients are given their test results.

*Current and past partners will not be contacted by the RUCO without the permission of the patient.*

Generally most people will be inclined to inform partners/contacts themselves initially. Names given can be used to allow the RUCO to cross reference records. **History from last 6 months. (B form)**

**Contract Referral**

A patient may be happy to inform partner/contact with the proviso that the RUCO can also get in contact with named individuals if it looks as if they haven’t attended for screening or treatment within 2 weeks.

**Referral**

Where a patient is unhappy about informing a partner/contact they may agree to the nurses at the RUCO contacting named individuals to offer screening and treatment.

This is only carried out anonymously with the permission of the index patient and information is never disclosed to reveal the identity of the patient.

Those patients that are unwilling or refuse to disclose partner information must be given advice with regard to risk of re-infection from untreated partner/contact.

*Wherever possible a Partner Notification form should be completed and faxed back to the RUCO along with confirmation of treatment details.*

Telling partners about Chlamydia leaflets are available to all treatment sites. Order supplies from Admin Team at RUCO.
TEST OF CURE
A test of cure is not indicated in uncomplicated cases of Chlamydia treated with Azithromycin 1Gm stat orally.

PREGNANCY
In pregnancy a test of cure is recommended 8 weeks following completion of treatment.
BASHH National Treatment Guidelines  www.bashh.org.uk

The RU CO will send reminders to pregnant women who need to have a test of cure following treatment in pregnancy.

AUDIT
The RU Clear Programme carries out Audit on a regular basis in order to monitor treatment outcomes and ensure best practice.

The treated should keep a record of at least 10 patients that they see for treatment each year (April to March) as a measure of maintenance of competency.

The RU Clear office may request an audit of patient records.

Patient notes should record the following:

- Patient name and Date of Birth
- Past Medical History
- Allergies
- Symptoms (action taken)
- Pregnancy & Baby under 6mths
- Drug issued and Dose
- Frequency
- Batch number
- Verbal and written information given
- Signature and name written legibly
- Advised – no sex 7 days
- Condoms given
- Advised prevention of reinfection
- Risk factors discussed for other STIs
USEFUL WEBSITES:

www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

NHS DIRECT

www.bashh.org.uk

The British Association of Sexual Health & HIV

www.ssha.info

The Society of Sexual Health Advisers

www.sexualhealthnetwork.co.uk

Greater Manchester sexual health network

www.chlamydiac screening.nhs.uk

National Chlamydia Screening Programme

www.ruclear.co.uk

Greater Manchester Chlamydia Screening Programme