For contact details of your LPC please visit lpc-online.org.uk
Potential benefits of a community pharmacy chlamydia screening & treatment service

1. Accessible and convenient
Community pharmacies are located close to people’s homes, work and educational institutions, making them convenient locations for young people to get to. Overall 89.2% of the population are estimated to have access to a community pharmacy within a 20-minute walk. Many pharmacies are also open late in the evening and at weekends making them an accessible location for young people to reach.

2. Sexually active young people are already using other pharmacy services
Sexually active young people are already using pharmacies to purchase condoms, collect their contraceptive medicines or to request emergency hormonal contraception (EHC). This therefore gives pharmacy teams opportunities to highlight and recruit young people into using the chlamydia screening service.

3. Patient choice
By commissioning a community pharmacy chlamydia screening and treatment service, young people are given more choice as to where they can go for screening and treatment. The pharmacy setting also provides a more informal environment, which some young people may find less intimidating than a GP practice or a sexual health clinic.

Fact: In 2017, over 13,000 chlamydia tests and 1,277 diagnoses were made in pharmacies amongst 15-24-year-olds.

4. Anonymous environment
Since there is no need to be registered or book an appointment at a pharmacy (unlike a GP practice) young people can visit any pharmacy they choose to collect a testing kit providing them with a more discreet and anonymous option to obtain a testing kit.

How might your local service work?
A chlamydia screening service or a treatment service could be offered as standalone services or both parts could be offered as one combined service.

Chlamydia screening kits would be provided to sexually active males and females of specific ages, for example, those between the age of 15 and 25 and partners of patients who have tested positive for chlamydia.

Depending on the requirements of the service, kits would be offered to patients when purchasing condoms, dispensing contraceptive medicines, supplying EHC or opportunistically when appropriate. The other option would be to have counter-top screening kits displayed at the point of sale or a self-service bin to enable patients of specific ages to opportunistically pick up a kit, without a consultation.

Where possible, completion of screening in on-site toilets would be encouraged and pharmacy staff would assist with the completion of the paperwork to send the sample off for testing. The pharmacy team could also take on the responsibility of posting the kits to ensure these are sent off for testing.

Pharmacy teams would be able to signpost to sexual health and community contraceptive services for those who required on-going contraception and diagnosis and management of STIs, and also provide general sexual health advice.

If a treatment service is also commissioned, pharmacists would be able to supply young people who tested positive for chlamydia with antibiotics to treat the infection, such as doxycycline or erythromycin under a Patient Group Direction.

Public Health England has published The Pharmacy Offer for Sexual Health, Reproductive Health and HIV – A resource for commissioners and providers which contains information to raise awareness with commissioners and providers of the community pharmacy offer for sexual health, reproductive health and HIV services.

Fact: In 2017, over 13,000 chlamydia tests and 1,277 diagnoses were made in pharmacies amongst 15-24-year-olds.

---