

3.4 **Appendix 1: Sexual Health Services – Service Levels**

Level 1 Sexual Health Services:

- a) Rapid/easy access to a full range of sexual and reproductive health service information with a focus on healthy sexual practice and consent.
- b) Information with confidential, non-judgmental, and client-centred referrals to appropriate sexual health services including the voluntary sector.
- c) Primary and secondary prevention initiatives to address sexual and reproductive health risky behaviours and improve health and wellbeing in the community.
- d) Chlamydia screening.
- e) Opportunistic screening for genital chlamydia in sexually active asymptomatic males and females under the age of 25 as part of the National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP).
- f) Treatment and management of positive Chlamydia tests including treatment for partners.
- g) STI screening and treatment of asymptomatic infections (except treatment for gonorrhoea and syphilis) in women and men (except MSM). See Note 1.
- h) Partner notification of STIs or onward referral for partner notification.
- i) HIV testing including pre-test discussion and giving results.
- j) Point of care HIV testing.
- k) Rapid HIV testing using a validated test (with confirmation of positive results or referral for confirmation).
- l) Screening for hepatitis A, hepatitis B and hepatitis C and vaccination for hepatitis and B in line with the green book recommendations.
- m) Appropriate screening and vaccination in at-risk groups.
- n) Provision of verbal and written sexual health promotion information including safer sex advice.
- o) Condom distribution and information for use.
- p) Provision of condoms for safer sex.
- q) Assessment and referral for psychosexual problems.
- r) Discussions around pregnancy and abortion options.
- s) Provision of information on all sexual and reproductive health services including self-care and prevention options.
- t) Sexual history taking and risk assessment including identifying:
- u) Safeguarding issues in under 18s and vulnerable adults with referral as appropriate.
- v) The need for emergency contraception.
- w) The need for HIV post-exposure prophylaxis following sexual exposure (PEPSE). See Note 4 below.
- x) Sexual assault with referral as appropriate.

Level 2 Sexual Health Services Incorporates Level 1 plus:

- a) Full sexual history taking and risk assessment (all practitioners).
- b) Behaviour change interventions integral to delivery.
- c) All methods of oral emergency contraception (EHC) and the intrauterine device (IUCD) for emergency contraception.
- e) First prescription and continuing supply of combined hormonal
- f) contraception (combined OR progestogen only) including oral,
- g) transdermal, transvaginal methods of delivery and a choice of products
- h) within each category where these exist.
- i) First prescription and continuing supply of injectable contraception.
- j) IUD and IUS uncomplicated insertion, follow up and removal with
- k) alternative options where appropriate.
- l) Diaphragm fitting and follow up.
- m) Uncomplicated contraceptive implant insertion follow up and removal.
- n) Assessment and referral for difficult implant removal.
- o) Natural family planning.
- p) Direct referral for antenatal care.
- q) Direct referral for abortion care and support for self-referral.
- r) Counselling and direct referral for male and female sterilisation.
- s) Domestic abuse screening and referral (all practitioners).
- t) Assessment and referral for psychosexual issues.
- u) Assessment and referral for Brief Alcohol Interventions.

- v) Referral for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) specialist advice and care.
- w) Genital ulceration other than uncomplicated genital herpes.
- x) Chlamydia screening for sexually active under 25-year-olds.
- y) Case Management of uncomplicated Chlamydia.
- z) HIV and syphilis testing and pre and post-test discussions (with referral pathways in place).
- aa) v) Initiation of Post Exposure Prophylaxis with referral to Level 3 for on-going management.
- bb) w) Hepatitis A (targeted), B & C testing and discussion (with referral pathways in place).
- cc) Uncomplicated contact tracing/partner notification.
- dd) Management of first episode uncomplicated vaginal discharge (low risk).
- ee) Management of contacts of gonorrhoea and TV (excluding symptomatic men).
- ff) Assessment & treatment of genital ulceration with appropriate referral pathways for those at high risk of syphilis/LGV (Lymphogranuloma Venereum).
- gg) Initial assessment and onward referral of sexual assault cases to SARC.
- hh) Holistic sexual health care for young people including child protection / safeguarding / Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) assessment.
- ii) Problems with choice of contraceptive methods.
- jj) Management of problems with hormonal contraceptives.
- kk) Urgent and routine referral pathways to and from related specialties (general practice, urology, A&E, gynaecology) should be clearly defined.
- ll) These may include general medicine /infectious diseases for inpatient HIV care.
- mm) Urgent and routine referral pathways to and from social care.
- nn) STI testing and treatment of symptomatic but uncomplicated infections in men (except MSM) and women including:
 - oo) ii) gonorrhoea if able to perform gonorrhoea cultures with rapid transport to the laboratory.
- pp) The following should be referred to Level 3:
 - qq) men with dysuria and / or genital discharge. See Note 2. symptoms at extra-genital sites e.g. rectal or pharyngeal on pregnant
 - rr) women (except women with uncomplicated infections requesting abortion).
 - ss) genital ulceration other than uncomplicated genital herpes.
 - tt) gonorrhoea if unable to perform gonorrhoea cultures with rapid transport to the laboratory. See Note 3 below

Level 3 Sexual Health Services Incorporates Level 1 and 2 plus:

- A) Management of complex contraceptive problems including UK Medical
- a) Eligibility Criteria (UKMEC) category 3 and 4.
- b) Management of HIV partner notification.
- c) Management of sexual health aspects of psychosexual dysfunction.
- d) Management of organic sexual dysfunction.
- e) STI testing and treatment of MSM. See Note 1 below.
- f) STI testing and treatment of men with dysuria and genital discharge. See Note 2 below.
- g) Testing and treatment of STIs at extra-genital sites.
- h) STIs with complications.
- i) STIs in pregnant women (except women with uncomplicated infections requesting abortion) Gonorrhoea cultures and treatment of gonorrhoea.
- j) See Note 3 below.
- k) Specialist contraception services e.g. IUD/IUS problem clinics, difficult implant removal, etc. with appropriate diagnostic service (for example, ultrasound).
- l) Treatment for post-exposure prophylaxis after sexual exposure to HIV.
- m) Delivery of HPV in accordance with the NHS England Human papillomavirus immunisation. programme for men who have sex with men
- n) (HPV-MSM) service specification.

- t) Recurrent conditions.
- u) Recurrent or recalcitrant STIs and related conditions.
- v) Management of syphilis and blood borne viruses, including the
- w) management of syphilis at all stages of infection.
- x) STI service co-ordination across a network including:
 - Clinical leadership of STI management.
 - Co-ordination of clinical governance.
 - Co-ordination of STI training.
 - Co-ordination of partner notification.
 - Co-ordination of outreach clinical services for high-risk groups and health promotion.
- Interface with specialist HIV services commissioned by NHS England