

SERVICE SPECIFICATION

Service Specification No.	
Service name	Chlamydia treatment in Community Pharmacy (under direction of doxycycline and azithromycin PGDs)
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Provider Lead	Community Pharmacies in Plymouth
Period	April 2018 – July 2020
Date of Review	June 2019

1.1 Introduction

This service specification sets out the requirements for services delivered by community pharmacies currently providing Plymouth's Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) service to offer treatment for chlamydia under a Patient Group Direction (PGD).

The specification of this service is designed to cover the enhanced aspects of clinical care of the patient, all of which are beyond the scope of essential services within pharmacies. Participation by community pharmacies in this service is currently voluntary and commissioning of these services is guided by local need and broader service provision.

1.2 Background

Sexual health is an important public health priority. Good sexual and reproductive health is an essential component of positive health and wellbeing. The consequences of poor sexual health, including sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and unplanned pregnancies can have a lasting impact on people's lives.

Sexual ill health and unintended pregnancies are strongly linked with deprivation and broader health inequalities. Certain groups experience disproportionately poor sexual health outcomes. These include young people, men who have sex with men, black African people and sex workers. Other vulnerable groups such as refugees and asylum seekers and prisoners also experience poor sexual health outcomes.

The Government's 2010 strategy for public health defines an ambitious approach to addressing key public health concerns and stresses the need for an accessible local model of integrated sexual health services. The Department of Health Public Health Outcomes Framework recommends that local areas aim to achieve a chlamydia detection rate among 15 to 24 year olds of at least 2,300 per 100,000 population. This level has been set to encourage community screening and to achieve a continued reduction in chlamydia prevalence.

Genital Chlamydia Trachomatis infection is the most commonly diagnosed sexually transmitted infection in England. Prevalence of infection is highest in sexually active young men and women, especially those aged less than 25 years. Untreated infection can have serious long-term consequences, particularly for women, in whom it can lead to pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), ectopic pregnancy and tubal factor infertility. Since many infections are asymptomatic, a large proportion of cases remain undiagnosed, although infection can be diagnosed easily and effectively treated.

Chlamydia screening is currently carried out across England as part of the National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP). The objective of the programme is to control chlamydia through the early detection and treatment of asymptomatic infection, preventing the development of sequelae and reducing onward transmission of the disease. The Programme is focussed on providing opportunistic screening to high numbers of sexually active under 25 year olds.

Community Pharmacies have a significant role in improving public health and preventing ill health. They provide accessible and convenient services that are well placed to deliver a number of sexual health services and interventions including chlamydia screening and treatment.

2. Scope of service

This service is provided to:

- 2.1** To increase access to treatment for asymptomatic chlamydia infection in under 25 year olds.
- 2.2** To increase access for under 25 year olds to sexual health advice and referral on to specialist services where required.
- 2.3.** To strengthen the network of integrated sexual and reproductive services in Plymouth.

3. Description of service

The Provider shall:

- 3.1** Provide the service as part of part of the wider chlamydia screening service currently provided by Livewell South West.
- 3.2** Supply doxycycline as the first line treatment and azithromycin where the first line treatment is not indicated or is declined.
- 3.3** Provide information concerning recommendation to re-test 12 weeks after treatment including details of local testing options.
- 3.4** Note that all management of results and tracing and notification of partners/contacts

relating to this service shall be undertaken by the Chlamydia Screening Office (CSO).

3.5 Give advice on the potential side effects and drug interactions with doxycycline and azithromycin.

3.6 Offer a user-friendly, non-judgmental, service user-centred and confidential service.

3.7 Provide support and advice to people accessing the service, including advice on safe sex, condom use and advice on the use of regular contraceptive methods, when required.

3.8 Undertake appropriate consideration in regard to whether young people under the age of 16 are Fraser competent and where appropriate assess the service user according to Fraser competence criteria.

4. Criteria and referral for treatment

4.1 The pharmacists delivering this service will be providing the local Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) enhanced service and be providing chlamydia screening as part of that.

4.2 Treatment for chlamydia will be offered under a doxycycline or azithromycin PGD for those who receive a positive chlamydia test through the CSO only. Treatment will also be available for their partners.

4.3 Only clients suitable for treatment under the PGDs will be issued with treatment

4.4 Pharmacists will have signed up to the doxycycline and azithromycin PGDs
The CSO will maintain a list of all those pharmacists able to offer treatment through the PGDs.

4.5 Referrals for the treatment of chlamydia positive clients and any partners will be made by the CSO only.

4.6 The CSO will assess client's suitability to receive treatment via the PGDs

4.7 The CSO must be informed of any clients treated or not through the Client Management Form (Appendix 3).

4.8 In the event that any client is deemed to be unsuitable for treatment via the PGDs they should be referred back to the CSO to identify alternative treatment options.

5. Training or Accreditation - CPPE; local training, CPD

The following criteria must be met by pharmacies signing up to the chlamydia treatment service:

5.1 Pharmacists must have been delivering the EHC scheme in Plymouth and have

completed all the necessary training related to this and be based within a pharmacy in a locality as agreed by Plymouth City Council.

5.2 The pharmacist must be registered with the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC). Pharmacists will be responsible for identifying their own learning needs and recording their Continuing Professional Development (CPD) in accordance with current GPhC standards.

5.3 All pharmacists delivering the service must attend local training co-ordinated through the CSO. This training covers

- Overview of National Chlamydia Screening Programme and local Chlamydia Screening Office
- Overview of the PGDs used in this service
- Safeguarding and Fraser guidelines
- Plymouth C CARD condom distribution scheme
- Scenarios and discussions relating to working with young people

It is recommended that all pharmacists delivering this service update their training every two years.

5.4 Pharmacists should cascade general information on chlamydia treatment to all pharmacy staff to ensure that everyone is aware of the key issues regarding this. This will also help to ensure that all staff respond sensitively and appropriately to enquiries about treatment. In particular, staff should recognise that all requests for treatment should be referred to the pharmacist or if unavailable to the CSO.

6. Population covered

6.1 These services cover the geographical area of Plymouth. The service is provided for under 25 year olds.

6.2 The following exclusion criteria apply

- A person who is unsuitable for treatment under the Services on clinical grounds
- A person who is temporarily unsuitable for treatment by the Service on clinical grounds for as long, as such unsuitability remains
- A person who has not validly consented to the treatment provided under the Services; and
- A person who has demonstrated any unreasonable behaviour unacceptable to the Provider, it's Staff or the named professional clinically responsible for the management of the care of such individual

6.3 The pharmacist will phone the CSO if unable to treat the person to arrange treatment elsewhere. A message may be left of the person's name and contact number if there is no one available or it is out of service hours. A Client Management Form should always be completed and returned to the CSO (Appendix 3 of PGD).

7. Frequency and times of service and conditions

7.1 Hours of service

- a. Supplementary/extended opening hour pharmacies must provide accredited pharmacist cover for at least 80% of their 'core' opening hours and for at least 80% of their supplementary/extended opening hours.
- b. Pharmacies with 'core' opening hours, i.e. 40 hours per week, should provide accredited pharmacist cover for 80% of their opening hours.

7.2 Premises and equipment

- a. The pharmacy must provide an area which offers sufficient privacy, confidentiality and comfort for the client.
- b. Pharmacies are encouraged to display relevant promotional materials supplied by the CSO.

8. Quality Standards

8.1 It is expected that the Pharmacies will be compliant with national policy and the standards of clinical practice as set out in the guidance published by

- Department of Health
- General Pharmaceutical Council
- National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE)
- British Association for Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH)
- Medical Foundation for HIV and Sexual Health (MEDFASH)
- Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare (FSRH)
- National Chlamydia Screening Programme

8.2 The accredited pharmacist should make and record an assessment of every young person who is believed to be under 16 years of age in accordance with the Fraser Guidelines about the competence of that young person to receive advice and treatment. Records of this assessment must be kept. Discussion with the young person should explore the following issues:

- Whether the young person is sufficiently mature to understand the advice given
- Advice and encouragement to discuss the situation with parents / guardian
- The effect on physical/ mental health if advice/treatment is withheld

The Practitioner Checklist and Assessment and Record Sheet (Appendix 1/2 of PGD) includes an assessment of Fraser Competence for clients under the age of 16 years. This record sheet should be completed and retained regardless of whether or not doxycycline or azithromycin is supplied.

9.3 Responsibility of Pharmacists

- Satisfactorily comply with his or her obligations under Schedule I of the Pharmaceutical Services Regulations to provide essential services and has an acceptable system of clinical governance
- The pharmacy must identify a lead pharmacist for the service and notify Plymouth City Council
- The pharmacy contractor has a duty to ensure that the pharmacists and staff involved in the provision of the service are aware of and operate within the doxycycline and azithromycin PGDs
- The lead pharmacist must ensure that pharmacists employed within their pharmacy are kept up to date with any changes or notifications regarding the service as communicated by the relevant organisations
- Where appropriate, the lead pharmacist must make arrangements with the local Chlamydia Screening Office for new pharmacists to receive training in order to become accredited to provide doxycycline and azithromycin through the PGDs
- The lead pharmacist must ensure that a fully accredited pharmacist is available to provide doxycycline and azithromycin under this contract framework for a minimum of 80% of the pharmacy's opening hours and make an annual declaration to this effect through the sign up form
- An accredited pharmacist must personally speak with and counsel the client requesting chlamydia treatment. The accredited pharmacist must obtain the information outlined in the PGD before making any recommendation regarding the provision of the treatment
- Accredited pharmacists should be aware of their safeguarding responsibilities and the referral pathway for children into Children's Services. Refer to the Plymouth Safeguarding Children Procedures <http://www.proceduresonline.com/swcpp/plymouth/index.html>
- Lead pharmacists must ensure that all staff delivering the services are fully accredited to carry out the procedures required as part of this service specification and will be required to demonstrate their professional eligibility, competence, and continuing professional development on request from the commissioner.

10 Contract Monitoring

10.1 Record keeping

- The pharmacy must maintain adequate records of the service provided on relevant forms and on PharmOutcomes
- The accredited pharmacist must ensure that the Practitioner Checklist and Assessment and Record Sheet in the PGD (Appendix 1/2) is completed during every consultation, regardless of whether or not treatment is supplied
- The accredited pharmacist must ensure that the patient gives verbal consent to receive treatment, this is recorded on the Practitioner Checklist and Assessment and Record Sheet
- A record should be kept of all treatments issued

- The pharmacist must complete and store all patient records pertaining to the PGD in accordance with guidelines
- The pharmacist must complete and return any clinical audits deemed necessary by the CSO and Plymouth City Council

10.2 Quality indicators

- The pharmacy must participate in any Plymouth City Council or CSO organised audit of service provision
- The pharmacy must be able to demonstrate that clear and accurate records are kept and stored confidentially
- The pharmacy must be able to demonstrate that any new pharmacist involved in the provision of these services has completed the relevant training

11. Payment and reimbursement structure

11.1 A fee of £15.00 will be paid to the Pharmacy for each occasion that a treatment of doxycycline or azithromycin is supplied.

11.2 A fee for the cost according to provision of doxycycline 100mg twice a day for 7 days or azithromycin 1 gram supplied under the PGD at appropriate Drug Tariff price plus any associated VAT.

11.3 Payment is made quarterly in arrears based on activity reported via PharmOutcomes.

11.4 No claim should be made more than one month after the end of the quarter.