

# Sexual Health Screening

## What is it?

Sexual health screening is testing for one or more sexually transmitted infections (STIs). You might need a screening test if your GP thinks there's a risk you could have an STI. Not all STIs have symptoms. So, even if you're feeling well, it's important to test if you think you may have come into contact with someone who has an STI.

## What will my GP do now?

Your GP will tell you when you need to come back in to have your screening test.

### Your GP will also:

- Give you information about different STIs
- Tell you when you need to have the screening test
- Explain what the testing involves
- Discuss which STIs you may be at risk of
- Get your consent before doing any testing
- Work out whether you have a higher risk for some STIs
- Give you information about STI prevention
- Talk to you about contraception

## What will my GP do in the future?

Your GP will ask you to make a follow up phone or face-to-face appointment to help you understand your test results. They may also ask you to come in for another appointment to discuss your results more, as well as for the treatment(s) you may need.

Your GP may also:

- Give you information about treatment(s) for your STI(s)
- Talk to you about when and how to tell your previous partners (This is called contact tracing)
- Talk to you about safe sex and STI prevention in future

## Different types of STIs

### Chlamydia

Chlamydia is a bacterial infection that often doesn't have any symptoms.

### Hepatitis A, B, and C

Hepatitis A, B, and C are serious liver infections, caused by different types of the hepatitis virus.

### Gonorrhoea

Gonorrhoea is a bacterial infection that can lead to infertility if it is left untreated.

### Syphilis

Syphilis is a serious bacterial infection that starts as a painless sore.

### Genital herpes

Genital herpes is an infection that causes genital pain and sores.

### HIV

HIV is a virus that affects your body's ability to fight infections and progresses to AIDS.

## What questions could I ask my doctor?

- What STIs could I have?
- Why don't I have any symptoms?
- What happens if I don't take the test?
- Will anyone find out I need the test?
- What happens if I test positive?
- How long does it take to get results?
- If I find out I have an STI, is it curable?



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## What can I do?

It's normal to feel worried or scared. Remember, your GP will support you throughout this entire process. It's important to arrange your test sooner rather than later. The earlier you find out, the sooner you can start any necessary treatment (and prevent any diseases from spreading).

Here's what you can do now:

- Book an appointment with your GP to have the screening test done
- Talk to your GP about STI prevention and contraception
- Stay calm and try not to assume the worst

## What supports are available?

### Liverpool Sexual Health Clinic

The [Liverpool Sexual Health Clinic](#) offers private STI testing and diagnosis. The clinic also provides medication if you are, or may be, at risk of HIV. This medicine, called PEP, may prevent HIV if taken 72 hours after potential exposure.

As well as helping you with contact tracing, staff can help you manage and cope with your STI diagnosis. You can either ask your GP to refer you or contact the clinic directly.

Address: Ground Floor, 13 Elizabeth Street, Liverpool.

Website: [www.swslhd.health.nsw.gov.au/communityhealth/sexualhealth](http://www.swslhd.health.nsw.gov.au/communityhealth/sexualhealth)


Phone: (02) 9827 8022

## Want more information?

If you'd like to read more about sexual screening and sexual health, the following resource list can help.

### For advice about sexual screening

**NSW Sexual Health Info Link**  
(Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm)

 1800 451 624

 [shil.nsw.gov.au](http://shil.nsw.gov.au)

**NSW Health Sexual Health Plus**

 [health.nsw.gov.au](http://health.nsw.gov.au)

### Information about sexual health

**Health Direct Australia**

Sexual Health Topic

 [healthdirect.gov.au/sexual-health](http://healthdirect.gov.au/sexual-health)

**NSW Health PlaySafe**

 [playsafe.health.nsw.gov.au](http://playsafe.health.nsw.gov.au)

**Reachout**

About sexual health

 [au.reachout.com](http://au.reachout.com)

### Information about how to tell your previous partners about your disease

**Let Them Know**

for heterosexuals

 [letthemknow.org.au](http://letthemknow.org.au)

**Better To Know**

Notify your partners anonymously

 [bettertoknow.org.au](http://bettertoknow.org.au)

**Drama Down Under**

For men who have sex with men (MSM):

 [thedramadownunder.info](http://thedramadownunder.info)

**ACON Sexual Health & Testing**

HIV prevention

 [acon.org.au](http://acon.org.au)

This information is to be viewed by someone who has received a diagnosis from their doctor. It is not designed to be used to diagnose a condition or as a substitute for ongoing medical care

Health Resource Directory factsheets are endorsed by South Western Sydney PHN's Community Advisory Committee and local GPs

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