

Urethral discharge in males

What is it?

Urethral discharge is when fluid leaks from the tube that carries urine and semen through the penis. It is often caused by germs from sexually transmitted infections (STIs). It can also be caused by other germs. You may also notice redness and swelling, pain, and needing to wee more often if you have discharge.

What will my GP do now?

Your GP will find out what type of germs are causing your discharge using urine or swab tests. Your GP may also do a sexual health screening test. Often a course of antibiotics will treat your symptoms. Your GP will talk to you about the best treatment option. Your GP may also advise you to not have sex while you recover or wait for results. Your GP may refer you to a specialist if your condition is severe or complex.

What will my GP do in the future?

Your GP will want to see you again about a week after you start treatment. They will ask you about your symptoms and talk about any test results. If your doctor confirms you have an STI at this check-up, they may advise you to:

- Contact people you've had sex with ([contact tracing](#)) so they can see their GP
- Stop having sex until your infection has been treated

Your doctor may refer you to a sexual health clinic if your symptoms don't improve, or if they come back.

What can I do?

You should finish taking all the antibiotics you're given, even if you feel better. Wash the skin around your penis, scrotum and anus once a day with cool or warm water. Avoid using scented products in these areas. If you have been diagnosed with an STI, contact people you've had sex with to tell them about your STI ([contact tracing](#)).

What questions could I ask my doctor?

- ☐ *What activities should I avoid?*
- ☐ *What if my symptoms get worse?*
- ☐ *What is causing my symptoms?*



What supports are available?

Liverpool Sexual Health Clinic

The Liverpool Sexual Health Clinic offers support for people with STIs and will help you with [contact tracing](#). Staff can also help you manage and cope with your STI. Your GP may refer you or you can contact the clinic yourself.

Address: Ground Floor, 13 Elizabeth Street, Liverpool

Phone: **9827 8022**

Your GP may also refer you to a private urologist if your condition is severe or not getting better.

Where can I learn more?

- **Better To Know** – Sexual health resource for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: bettertoknow.org.au
- **Let Them Know** – Free STI notification service: letthemknow.org.au
- **NSW STI** – Information about specimen samples: stipu.nsw.gov.au