

Message from NHS Gloucestershire

You probably don't even know if you have Chlamydia, but it's easy to find out.

Chlamydia is the most common sexually transmitted infection (STI) amongst young people. It is estimated that 1 in 12 young people are infected, yet you probably won't even know whether you have it. In many cases, Chlamydia is symptomless. Left undiagnosed and untreated, Chlamydia can cause serious health risks, including pelvic inflammatory disease, infertility and reactive arthritis.

As part of the National Chlamydia Screening programme, Chlamydia screening is free for all under 25s. NHS Gloucestershire's national target for 09/10 is to screen 25% of young people in Gloucestershire aged 15-24 years.

We need your help to get the message out to young people about the risks of Chlamydia and the importance of regular testing.

The test is simple and painless: a urine test for men ('pee in a pot') and a self administered swab test for women. The Chlamydia Screening Office will give results within two weeks. If tested positive, antibiotics can be given to clear up the infection.

How to get tested

If you know someone under 25, please take this opportunity to encourage them to get tested. All testing is confidential.

For details of local screening venues (including GPs, Pharmacies and Contraception Clinics) or to order free postal testing kits, people can visit: www.best2test-glos.nhs.uk or call 08454 226202. The Screening team are also happy to visit venues or local events to offer screens. They can be contacted on the above number.