

NETS BROCHURE

Nurse Express Testing Service

Please read this brochure before you are seen by the NETS nurse. You will be offered the following tests.

- Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea (urine test)
- HIV and Syphilis (blood test)

Results are available one week later. If you are leaving Australia for another country in the next 7 days, we ask that you have these tests done in that country.

About NETS

The information you have provided tells us that NETS may suit you. In this express consultation, we provide a short discussion with a nurse who will organise your tests. It also reduces the time you spend waiting today. If you have questions not answered by the brochure, or need more time for discussion, we will re triage you for a different clinician this will involve a longer waiting time.

Your Test Today

Chlamydia and gonorrhoea

Chlamydia and gonorrhoea are bacterial infections that are treated with antibiotics. The test involves collecting the first part of your urine in a plastic container. The NETS nurse will give you a labeled container. Please put this in the box in the corridor.

HIV and syphilis blood testing

If you decide to have a blood test we routinely test for both syphilis and HIV.

Syphilis is treated with antibiotics. The [window period](#) for syphilis can be up to 12 weeks from possible exposure. You may need to repeat the syphilis test if you have had a risk less than 12 weeks ago.

Here is some information to help you decide about being tested for HIV today.

How is HIV spread

The human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) affects the immune system. A person with HIV may not have any symptoms, but if they are not suppressed on HIV treatment, they carry the virus and can pass it on through blood or sexual body fluids even if they look or feel healthy. People living with HIV can take medication to suppress the virus.

HIV is uncommon among heterosexuals in Australia.

HIV is spread by:

- Vaginal or anal sex without using a condom
- Sharing injecting equipment and needles
- Surgery in a country where HIV is more common
- During pregnancy, childbirth, or breast feeding if the mother is HIV positive

HIV is very rarely transmitted by oral sex.

Safe sex explained

Safe sex means sex where semen, vaginal secretions or blood are not passed between sexual

partners. Using condoms during vaginal and anal sex greatly reduces the risk of HIV. Condoms are most effective when used before there is any genital contact.

Free condoms are available in the waiting room.

The HIV Antibody Test

A person produces HIV antibodies in their blood after they have been infected with HIV. A very reliable blood test detects these antibodies 6 weeks after possible exposure. This is called the [window period](#). You may need to repeat the test if you have had a risk less than 6 weeks ago.

Consenting to the HIV test

Before having the test, it is important to consider the following;

- How will a positive result affect my life?
- Do I have family or friends to support me?
- How would I manage a positive HIV result?

What does a negative HIV antibody test result mean?

A negative HIV antibody test result means the test did not detect HIV in the blood sample you provided. Remember you may need to repeat the test, if your risk for HIV was less than 6 weeks before the blood test.

What does a positive HIV antibody test result mean?

A positive HIV antibody test means that you have HIV. If your test is positive we will provide you with support through our counsellors and HIV service.

Remember, we consider your risk of having HIV is extremely low.

What does an inconclusive HIV antibody test result mean?

Occasionally, a result is neither positive nor negative. This is called an inconclusive HIV result. Having an inconclusive test result does not mean you are going to be HIV positive. We will ask you to come in to talk about this result and arrange for another blood test. These results will not be given over the phone.

STI testing and confidentiality

It is a legal requirement that all positive STI tests are reported to the Health Department for statistical purposes only in a coded form.

If you understand all of the information outlined in this leaflet and have no other questions the NETS Nurse will arrange for your blood test today.

Your Test Results

With your permission, we will SMS your negative HIV result within seven days.

If your HIV result is either positive or inconclusive, we will call you and ask you to attend the clinic to discuss your result.

If you decide to opt out of this service, we recommend you call to check your HIV results. We will call with other test results only if you need further treatment or follow up.

With the tests you are having today there is a possibility that you may be called to repeat a test. This is usually due to the test not being able to give a clear negative result. This is not common.

Remember:

**The most effective way to prevent all sexually transmitted infections is to use a condom when you have sex.
Free condoms are available in the waiting room or reception.**

More information on STIs

Go to: www.mshc.org.au
or call the MSHC Information line on:
9341 6200 to talk to a nurse

NETS

Collecting your samples

The nurse will discuss which tests are suitable for you today and which samples need to be collected.

If you are providing a urine sample, remember to drop your sample into the specimen collection box as directed by the nurse. Specimen boxes are also located along the corridors.



Place Specimen Here



MSHC

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