

Syphilis

Follow up after treatment



Sexual and Reproductive Health Services

As you have been diagnosed with Syphilis it is extremely important that we monitor you over the next 12 months to ensure that the treatment has been successful.

If we do not monitor you after treatment we cannot be sure that this bacteria infection has cleared. If Syphilis is not successfully cleared, this can cause serious health problems for you and your sexual partners in the future.

What is Syphilis?

Syphilis is caused by bacteria known as *Treponema pallidum*. This is easily passed from one person to another through sexual contact. Anyone who is sexually active can get it. Both men and women can have Syphilis and pass it on.

What if Syphilis is left untreated?

Without proper treatment the infection can spread to other parts of your body causing long term complications.

Untreated Syphilis may start to cause very serious damage to the heart, brain, eyes, other internal organs, bones and the nervous system. This damage could lead to death.

In order to ensure you are successfully treated, we need to take blood samples at the following intervals:

- 3 months after treatment
- 6 months after treatment
- 12 months after treatment

When you attend these appointments to have your bloods taken, a Health Advising Specialist will let you know when you will be told your results and will arrange a date and time for your next appointment.

Syphilis is usually treated by either a single (or up to 3) injection(s) of Penicillin

Sexual partner(s) should be contacted to offer them testing and treatment at the earliest possible time

The Health Advising Specialist can assist in this process called Partner Notification

For help, information, or to book an appointment, please call one of our three clinics:

Central Telephone Line –
Telephone: 01382 425542

Dundee
Ninewells Hospital, Level 7, South Block, Dundee, DD1 9SY

Perth
Drumhar Health Centre, Drumhar Court, Perth PH1 5PD

Or visit our website: www.sexualhealthtayside.org

This leaflet was developed by Sexual Health Advisers within the NHS Sexual and Reproductive Health (NTSRH) Service.

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This leaflet can be made available in other languages and formats on request
Speak to the nurse/health professional looking after you to arrange this