



## CHLAMYDIA

### What is Chlamydia?

Chlamydia is a bacterial Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) of the genitals, rectum or throat.

### How is Chlamydia spread?

Chlamydia is passed on:

- By having vaginal, anal or oral sex without a condom with someone who is infected.
- From mother to baby during birth.

### What are the signs and symptoms of Chlamydia?

Most people who have Chlamydia will not have any symptoms.

When there are symptoms, they usually show up 2 to 21 days after infection.

Women often have no symptoms, but when they do, they can include:

- A discharge from the vagina.
- Pains in the lower stomach.
- Pain when urinating.
- Irritation of the urethra.
- Pain in the testicles.

Chlamydia in the rectum may cause a discharge and discomfort.

### Can Chlamydia be cured?

Yes. In most cases a single dose of antibiotics quickly cures Chlamydia. More severe cases may need more antibiotics.

It is best to avoid having sex for seven days after treatment because you can still give the infection to someone else.

If you decide to have sex, you must use a condom for vaginal or anal sex.

Your doctor may want to see you again when you have completed the treatment.

### What happens at the test for Chlamydia?

- The doctor or nurse will ask questions to find out whether you are at risk for STIs and about your general health. It is important to be as honest as you can even though it may be embarrassing.
- Men only need to do a urine test.
- Women will need an internal check-up.
- You may also need to be checked for other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs).

### What happens if Chlamydia is not treated?

In women, Chlamydia can cause pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) if not treated. This is when the reproductive organs, the uterus (womb) and fallopian tubes in the pelvis become inflamed. PID may also include:

- An ectopic pregnancy when the foetus grows in the fallopian tubes instead of the uterus.
- Difficulty getting pregnant because the fallopian tubes get damaged by scar tissue.
- Ongoing pain in the pelvis.

In men Chlamydia can cause:

- Swelling and pain in the tissues which join the testis to the spermatic cords (the epididymis).
- Inflammation in the urethra.
- Ongoing discomfort in the testicles.

### Should I tell my sexual partner(s) that I am being treated for Chlamydia?

Yes!

- All sexual partners should be treated even if they have no symptoms or their test results are normal.
- If you need help to tell your partner(s) speak to a doctor, nurse or sexual health counsellor.
- You should show your partner(s) this leaflet.

Chlamydia can trigger Reiter's Syndrome, a disease that causes joint pain, skin rashes and inflammation of the eyes. The only way to know for sure you have an STI is to get tested.