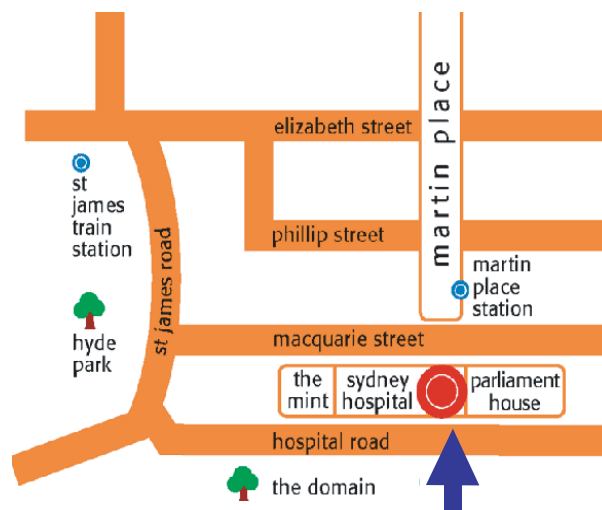


## Sydney Sexual Health Centre



The Sydney Sexual Health Centre provides a free, confidential and comprehensive service that helps put you in control of your sexual health. The service supports your sexual health by providing screening, vaccination and management of sexually transmissible infections including HIV and hepatitis B, women's and men's sexual health care, education, individual and couple counselling, and needle and syringe program. The service offers a choice of male and female doctors, nurses and counsellors who are respectful of your lifestyle and sexuality.

### NO MEDICARE CARD REQUIRED

#### Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10am-6pm  
Wednesday 2-6pm

**Telephone: (02) 9382 7440**

#### Internet:

[www.sesahs.nsw.gov.au/sydhosp/SSHC.asp](http://www.sesahs.nsw.gov.au/sydhosp/SSHC.asp)

**Sexual Health Infoline: 1800 451 624**

M-F 9am-5:30pm

## NSW/ACT Sexual Health Services

### Free & confidential sexual health care

Albury	Ph: (02) 6058 1840
Armidale	Ph: (02) 6776 4738
Bourke	Ph: (02) 6872 2145
Broken Hill	Ph: (08) 8080 1556
Canberra	Ph: (02) 6244 2184
Coffs Harbour	Ph: (02) 6656 7865
Dareton	Ph: (03) 5021 7200
Dubbo	Ph: (02) 6885 1700
Forster	Ph: (02) 6555 1800
Gosford	Ph: (02) 4320 2114
Goulburn	Ph: (02) 4827 3913
Griffith	Ph: (02) 6966 9900
Katoomba	Ph: (02) 4784 6560
Kings Cross	Ph: (02) 9360 2766
Kogarah	Ph: (02) 9350 2742
Lightning Ridge	Ph: (02) 6829 9900
Lismore	Ph: (02) 6620 2980
Liverpool	Ph: (02) 9827 8022
Manly	Ph: (02) 9977 3288
Marrickville	Ph: (02) 9560 3057
Mt Druitt	Ph: (02) 9881 1733
Newcastle	Ph: (02) 4923 6909
Nowra	Ph: (02) 4423 9353
Orange	Ph: (02) 6392 8600
Parramatta	Ph: (02) 9843 3124
Penrith	Ph: (02) 4734 2507
Port Kembla	Ph: (02) 4276 2399
Queanbeyan	Ph: (02) 6298 9233
Richmond	Ph: (02) 4578 1622
St Leonards	Ph: (02) 9926 7414
Sydney City	Ph: (02) 9382 7440
Tamworth	Ph: (02) 6766 3095
Taree	Ph: (02) 6592 9421
Wagga Wagga	Ph: (02) 6938 6492

want to know  
more about

# CHLAMYDIA



**SSHC** SYDNEY  
SEXUAL  
HEALTH  
CENTRE

## **What is Chlamydia?**

Chlamydia is a bacterial infection of the genitals or anus.

### **How does someone catch this infection?**

Chlamydia is passed on by having vaginal or anal sex without a condom, with someone who has the infection. Occasionally it is passed on by oral sex. A baby can acquire chlamydia at birth if its mother is infected.

### **How do I know if I have chlamydia?**

Symptoms can occur within 7-21 days after infection. However, most people have chlamydia for months or even years without knowing it.

In the unlikely event that a woman does have symptoms, they may include vaginal spotting or bleeding, discomfort when urinating, or pelvic discomfort. Men may have a discharge coming from the penis or irritation inside the penis when urinating.

Chlamydia in the anus is usually very mild and goes unnoticed. Occasionally it can cause anal pain or discharge.

### **How do you test for chlamydia?**

Chlamydia can be diagnosed by a urine test or by a swab collected from the cervix, vagina or anus.

## **Is there any treatment?**

Chlamydia is easily cured by the correct antibiotics. This may be a single dose or a course of antibiotics over a week or more.

### **What are the complications of this infection?**

If chlamydia is inadequately treated or not treated in women, it may lead to pelvic inflammatory disease (PID). This is when the uterus (womb) or fallopian tubes become inflamed. PID may cause ectopic pregnancies (the pregnancy develops in the fallopian tubes instead of the uterus), infertility (when the fallopian tubes become damaged by scar tissue), or chronic pelvic pain.

Similarly, men may also develop inflammation of their upper genital tract if chlamydia is not adequately treated. This may cause pain in the testes. On rare occasions, chlamydia may trigger arthritis, rashes and eye inflammation.

### **Do sexual partners need treatment?**

Sexual partners exposed by vaginal or anal sex without a condom are at high risk of catching the infection. In order to prevent the potential serious complications of chlamydia infection, all sexual partners in the last 6 months should be tested and treated regardless of symptoms or the test results.

## **What else do you need to know about chlamydial infection?**

- If you have been given a course of antibiotics it is very important that you finish the entire course - symptoms may resolve in a few days but the bacteria may not have been totally eradicated.
- Whether you have been prescribed a single dose or a course of antibiotics, sexual intercourse should be avoided for at least seven days because the infection can still be transmitted. If you cannot abstain from sexual intercourse during this time, a condom should be used every time.
- Certain antibiotics may stop the oral contraceptive pill from working properly. Women who are given a course of antibiotics and are on the oral contraceptive pill should use extra contraception (eg. condoms) whilst on the antibiotics and for seven days of hormone pills afterwards.