

Is headspace the right place to conduct sexual health screening?

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Introduction

- A collaborative and innovative pilot outreach project was developed between headspace and Clinic 16 with the aim of increasing chlamydia screening of young people in Northern Sydney Local Health District (LHD), NSW



- headspace is the National Youth Mental Health Foundation providing early intervention mental health services to 12-25 year olds
- headspace promotes young people's wellbeing in the four areas of mental health, physical health, work and study support and alcohol and other drug services
- the young people who attend headspace often have psychological, financial and/or physical vulnerabilities and may be at higher risk of contracting chlamydia
- headspace Chatswood and headspace Brookvale are located in Northern Sydney LHD



Northern Sydney Sexual Health

- Clinic 16, Northern Sydney Sexual Health, is a publicly funded sexual health service in Northern Sydney LHD

- Clinic 16 provides specialist sexual health medical, nursing, counselling and other allied health services, and is prioritised for specific populations including young people

Methods

- all clients attending headspace Brookvale and headspace Chatswood 1st March 2014 to 30th September 2016 were offered chlamydia testing
- clients were required to complete a registration form (fig 1) and provide a urine sample
- samples were collected weekly from headspace centres and taken to Clinic 16 where they were registered and delivered to the local pathology laboratory for testing
- results were followed up by Clinic 16
- symptomatic clients seen at headspace centres were referred directly to Clinic 16 or to a GP for a full STI screen
- clients requiring contraception were referred to a GP or family planning clinic

Figure 1: headspace chlamydia screening registration form

Information in RED is ESSENTIAL – We need to be able to contact you

Today's Date (day) / (month) / 2014

First Name: Male / Female (Please circle)

Mobile phone number:

Email:

1. Suburb you usually live in.....

2. Language you speak at home.....

3. Who you have sex with:

Men Women Both

4. When you last had sex (estimate) Date:

5. How often you use condoms?

Never Sometimes/Often Always

6. How many people have you had sex with in the last 6 months? Please estimate

7. Have you ever had Chlamydia?

Yes No

8. When was your last test for Chlamydia?

<1 year ago > 1 year ago Never Tested

9. How easy was it to use the Testing Kit?

Easy Difficult

10. Any comments or suggestions?

Next Steps

- You don't need to contact us for the results. If you test positive for Chlamydia, we will contact you after about a week to arrange treatment
- Your email or phone number are important because this shows us that you give consent for us to contact you.
- All information is confidential and kept at Royal North Shore Hospital

Please place this form in the front pocket of the plastic bag

Figure 2: CNC Youth Health at headspace Chatswood



Results

- 59 samples were registered and tested for chlamydia between 1st March 2014 and 30th September 2016
- 1 sample tested positive for chlamydia
- completion of the registration form was inconsistent
- many forms were returned with one or more missing fields

Conclusions

- this represents a viable screening pathway for asymptomatic clients at headspace
- the registration form has been subsequently simplified based on feedback from headspace clients and staff
- other strategies to increase uptake of this novel screening pathway will be explored in consultation with headspace Brookvale and headspace Chatswood clients and staff



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