



Text Message to Request Postal Kits



Young people across Greater Manchester now have another way to request a free Chlamydia Testing Postal Kit; through text messaging.

All they have to do is Text 'TEST' to 84010 followed by their name and address.

This service has been piloted over the last few months and has been such a success that we are now running a new Radio Campaign with Galaxy 102. We are sponsoring Debbie Mac at the Weekend as well as an airtime campaign which is scheduled for the next three months.

RU Clear Sharing Good Practice Conference

Our 7th March Conference was a great success, with great presentations from different sites and programmes on successful screening in educational settings. Some of the 120 attendees even won their own cuddly Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea microbes. All presentations and photos from the day are now on our website, and due to the positive feedback we have received are already planning another conference for next year.



• RU Clear

RU Clear is the Greater Manchester PCTs element of the National Chlamydia Screening Programme. We manage Chlamydia screening for young people aged under 25 years of age.

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TAMESIDE AND GLOSSOP CHLAMYDIA HIT SQUAD ARE OUR FIRST STAR SCREENING SITE...SEE INSIDE

The Laboratory

Laboratory testing for *Chlamydia trachomatis* has changed dramatically over the years. At the Manchester Royal Infirmary the last 18 months have seen dramatic changes in the service provision for virological testing. To cope with the demands of the Greater Manchester Screening program for Chlamydia, the laboratory has invested in an efficient high throughput platform, the Gen-Probe TIGRIS system, providing a new approach to testing.

Although a bacterium, *Chlamydia trachomatis* is similar to a virus in that it can only replicate in cells. Traditionally, swab samples were sent, via cold chain to specialist virus laboratories for cell culture. Although laborious and time consuming cell culture remained the "Gold Standard" for many years.

In the mid 80's enzyme immunoassays (EIAS) were developed to detect specific antigens. These were easier to perform increasing capacity and decreasing turnaround times.

In the 1990's nucleic-acid amplification tests (NAATS), were developed to amplify and detect small amounts of chlamydial nucleic acid. This proved far more sensitive than culture or EIAS becoming the test of choice for screening being suitable for testing urine and vaginal swabs. However, manual NAATS are technically demanding and the PCR test that we were using would have been incapable of handling the increase in samples from the screening programme.

For the screening program we needed a method that had large capacity, rapid turnaround time, high reproducibility, minimum handling and had a sensitivity > 90% and a specificity >99%. We were fortunate that the TIGRIS machine provided all this and more!

[Readers of a nervous disposition may wish to turn away now – here's the science bit]

The Gen-Probe TIGRIS is a fully automated system utilising and performing Target -capture, Transcription-Mediated Amplification (TMA) and chemiluminescent detection of ribosomal RNA (rRNA) from both *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoea* in the same sample at the same time! Sensitivity and specificity of Chlamydia detection is 95.2% and 97.6% with swabs and 96.5% and 98.7% with urines. For detection of gonorrhoea they are 99.1% and 98.4% with swabs and 96.5% and 99.4% with urines. [

Wasn't that bad was it!]

The results obtained are highly reproducible and all positive samples are repeated using a single CT or GC only test which uses a different probe to that in the combo test reducing the likelihood of false positives.

It is important that **ONLY** the Aptima collection tubes provided are used. There are 3 types available; for urines, vaginal swabs and urethral/endocervical swabs. These tubes have piercable caps which do not need to be removed before placing on the machine (minimising contamination risks). The media in the tubes lyses the cells releasing the nucleic acid and keeping it stable for up to 60 days (swabs) or 30 days(urines) at 2-30C ,a huge advantage for screening samples as neither fridges nor rapid transport to the laboratory are necessary.

The addition of a second TIGRIS at the end of 2007 increased our capacity to an incredible potential of 2,000 samples per day so you can be confident that as the screening programme expands to meet its targets the laboratory will easily be able to adapt to your needs to continue to provide rapid and reliable results.



★ Star Screening Site of the Month ★

Tameside and Glossop Chlamydia Hit Squad

The RUClear Hit Squad in Tameside & Glossop is the unofficial name for our team of health care assistants, receptionists and admin staff who are all RUClear screeners and C-Card "registrators" for public events.

So far, we have had open days in Ashton-under-Lyne town centre and various local colleges. At our event in Ashton Sixth Form College, we screened 90 students and registered over 200 onto C-Card. With the Hit Squad in place, we have a large, flexible, multi-disciplinary team (we usually have at least one nurse working with the Squad) who can run events without too much disruption of clinics. There is always a lot of clearing up to do afterwards (see photo!).

Note the sashes - we have had these specially printed!



Left to right: Joanne Johnson, Carol Bailey, Pauline Noble, Lynn Parkinson (arm in sling, but still screening!), Annece Walker, Ursula Barlow



Left to right: Joanne Johnson, Ursula Barlow, Nicky Marrow

If you have some work that you would like to share, please contact Samantha Scanlon or Jane Kempshall on 0845 330 6363 or email Jane.Kempshall@manchester.nhs.uk

Pregnant Clients

Please can all treatment sites ensure that they state clearly on all treatment forms when a client is pregnant so that we can ensure they receive a test of cure.



DNA's

Please can all treatment sites try and let us know as soon as possible when a client does not attend any appointment.

RU Clear Chlamydia Results reported in April and May 2007

| Test centre location | March 2008 | | | Cumulative 2007/2008 | | |
|------------------------------|-------------|------------|--------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------|
| | Total Tests | Positive | % Positive | Total Tests | Positives | % Positives |
| Ashton, Leigh & Wigan | 503 | 47 | 9.34 | 3646 | 471 | 12.92 |
| Bury | 196 | 20 | 10.20 | 1224 | 138 | 11.27 |
| Bolton | 192 | 30 | 15.63 | 1605 | 211 | 13.15 |
| Heywood Middleton & Rochdale | 207 | 9 | 4.35 | 1727 | 125 | 7.24 |
| Manchester | 1098 | 132 | 12.02 | 12149 | 1224 | 10.07 |
| Oldham | 306 | 29 | 9.48 | 2355 | 258 | 10.96 |
| Salford | 645 | 65 | 10.08 | 2740 | 351 | 12.81 |
| Sotckport | 235 | 23 | 9.79 | 1695 | 186 | 10.97 |
| Tameside | 317 | 24 | 7.57 | 1723 | 155 | 9.00 |
| Trafford | 101 | 9 | 8.91 | 956 | 104 | 10.88 |
| Unknown | 64 | 1 | 1.56 | 194 | 19 | 9.79 |
| Postal Kits | 388 | 44 | 11.34 | 1848 | 170 | 9.20 |
| TOTAL | 4252 | 433 | 10.18 | 31862 | 3383 | 10.62 |

Queries, Training & Support

Any staff having missed out on training or needing some support please contact your Coordinator.

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