

Partner Notification for patients diagnosed with Chlamydia in Victoria



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Partner Notification

- Partner Notification is the process of notifying the sexual partners of a person diagnosed with a sexually transmissible infection and advising them that they have been exposed

Partner Notification: Objectives

PUBLIC HEALTH

- Interrupt the transmission of infection
- Identify populations at particular risk
- Reduce community incidence of infection

INDIVIDUAL

- Identify people who may benefit from treatment (asymptomatic partners)
- Provide individual counselling
- Prevent re-infection of the index

Partner Notification

Can be done by either:

1. The client (Patient referral)
 2. The client and the practitioner together (Conditional Referral)
 3. A Health Professional (Provider referral)
- Confidentiality of the index case should be maintained at all times when initiating provider referral
 - Open, honest communication is essential

Partner Notification strategies for patients with Chlamydia

Patient referral should be encouraged for patients diagnosed with Chlamydia

- Explain the importance of partner notification
- Encourage the client by discussing when, where and how they will go about notifying a partner
- Use appropriate resources such as pre-printed letters (accessible from www.mshc.org.au)
- Discuss all issues raised by the client, for example: the potential for violence, social isolation, embarrassment

Partner Notification strategies for patients with Chlamydia

Use provider referral for complex or difficult cases

- If the index patient is particularly reluctant to notify a partner but will provide contact information
- If there are many partners and the index patient is concerned about potential repercussions

Methods of Provider Referral Partner Notification

- Phone
- Letter (can be accessed via MSHC website)
- S.M.S (needs careful consideration)
- Email
- Home visit