



Getting a check-up

Most of the time an STI check is quick and simple, however sometimes the doctor/nurse/health worker may need to ask more questions. This may happen if:

- you have signs and symptoms of an STI
- you are having a check because someone has told you they may have given you an STI
- you think there is high risk you have an STI and you are asking for a test.

Some of the questions the health worker may ask can feel very personal and sometimes embarrassing. It is important to remember they only ask these questions as it helps them decide which tests are needed or what medication they should give you.

Some of the questions that may be asked of you during an STI check are:

- Do you have any signs or symptoms you are worried about? For example: Discharge/pus, pain when weeing, pain during/after sex, belly pain, any sore/lumps or rashes?
- Who do you have sex with? Men, women or both?
- Do you have anal, oral and/or vaginal sex?
- Have you ever had an STI before?
- Do you always, sometimes or never use condoms?
- Have you ever worked as a sex worker?
- Have you ever injected drugs?
- Have you ever had backyard tattoos or piercings?
- Have you ever been in prison?
- Where did you have sex in past few months?
- Where were your sexual partners from in the past few months?



If you are female the health worker may also ask:

- Are you using any contraception, if so what?
- When was your last period?
- Could you be pregnant?

Based on these answers the health worker will offer you a number of tests which may involve:

- a urine test
- a self-collected swab of the lower vagina
- a swab of any sores/lumps or discharge/pus
- a throat or bum swab
- a blood test.

Based on your answers the health worker may give you medication on the day or wait for the results.

It is your right to answer or not to answer the questions.

Health staff will keep the information you tell them confidential and they are usually very experienced ...so not much shocks them!

Let's look after our health and get tested for STIs and BBVs. If we all test and get treated, we can stop the spread of STIs and BBVs in our community.