

# Chlamydia in pregnancy



**Information for patients**  
Maternity Services



**PROUD TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

SHEFFIELD TEACHING HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST



## **What is chlamydia?**

Chlamydia is a common bacterial infection found in young men and women. It can be treated easily with antibiotics, which are suitable for use in pregnancy.

## **How is it spread?**

The infection is passed from one person to another usually by sexual intercourse. It can also be passed on during oral or anal sex. It is possible for a person to have chlamydia for months or even years without realising it.

## **Why should I have a test whilst I am pregnant?**

If you have an untreated chlamydia infection at the time of delivery it could pass to the baby commonly causing an eye infection, more rarely it can cause pneumonia. Giving the baby antibiotics can treat it, but it is easier to treat the mum in pregnancy.

## **How is it found?**

If you are under 25 years of age you will be offered a swab test which will detect chlamydia infection in the majority of people who have it.

If you think you or your partner may have chlamydia, or you have any symptoms of vaginal infection, you should not rely on this test and instead see your GP or attend sexual health services clinic for testing.

## **What if I am over 25?**

You will need to discuss this with your midwife/doctor to make sure you are tested and cared for appropriately.

## **How will I get my chlamydia test result?**

You will be informed of the result of your chlamydia test separately from all your other antenatal tests.

If your test is negative you will get your chlamydia result within 2 weeks by the method you have chosen (text message, letter, phone call).

The text message will say "Clinic test OK" "This result is for the chlamydia test only"

If your test is positive you will need treatment and will be contacted by phone or letter by a Health Advisor.

For all other pregnancy tests you will get a letter or message from your midwife.

## **How will I be treated?**

The treatment is a course of antibiotics. It is essential that you have no sexual intercourse until you and your partner have received treatment. Sexual Health Sheffield can confidentially arrange to treat partners in order to prevent re-infection. It is possible to become re-infected with chlamydia by sexual contact with an untreated partner, or with a new partner.

If you have further questions regarding chlamydia, please contact:

- **0114 271 8859**



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