

Welcome to our latest quarterly newsletter, this issue features information on:

- Bank Holidays and Clinic Opening Times
- Sharp Increase in Syphilis Cases Across West Midlands
- Cobridge Clinic Walk-in Opening Hours Extended
- Finding our Bishton Court Clinic
- 52mg IUS Now Licenced for 8 Years
- PrEP Key Information and Poster
- Reminder: Sexual Health Communications Pack for Partner Agencies
- Find us on Social Media!

Bank Holidays and Clinic Opening Times

Our sexual health clinics and phone lines will be closed on the bank holidays over Christmas and New Year.

Clinics and phone lines will also close at 4pm on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

We have information on the "[Help Out Of Hours](#)" page of our website about accessing sexual health services when we are closed.



Sharp Increase in Syphilis Cases Across West Midlands

The UK Health Security Agency (UKSHA) has recently reported a sharp increase in cases of syphilis across the West Midlands.

While the number of diagnoses remains highest among gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM), the largest proportional rise between 2021 and 2023 was in heterosexual individuals.



Signposting people for testing

- People aged 16+ with no symptoms can order a free STI testing kit via the OpenClinic website: openclinic.org.uk/online-testing
- People aged under 16, or people with symptoms should be signposted to a sexual health clinic for testing. A list of clinics and opening times can be found on our website: openclinic.org.uk/clinics

Accessing free condoms and dental dams

Free condoms and dental dams are available to people aged 13+ with a C-Card. People aged 16+ can sign up for one online at openclinic.org.uk/ccard, and further information on other venues people can sign up for and use a C-Card is also available on this webpage.

Cobridge Clinic Walk-in Opening Hours Extended

Opening hours of walk-in clinics have been extended at Cobridge Community Health Centre in Stoke-on-Trent. The opening times for walk-in clinics are now as follows:

- Monday** 8:30am-6:00pm
- Tuesday** 8:30am-6:00pm
- Wednesday** 8:30am-11:30am
- Thursday** 1:00pm-6:00pm
- Friday** 8:30am-11:30am

The latest opening times for all of our clinics can be found on our website at openclinic.org.uk/clinics



Finding our Bishton Court Clinic

Our Bishton Court Clinic in Telford can be hard for patients to access, due to parking limitations and ongoing construction works in the area.

We now have [detailed information on our website](#) with directions to the clinic, including photos. We hope this will help our Telford patients find the clinic more easily.



52mg IUS Now Licenced for 8 Years

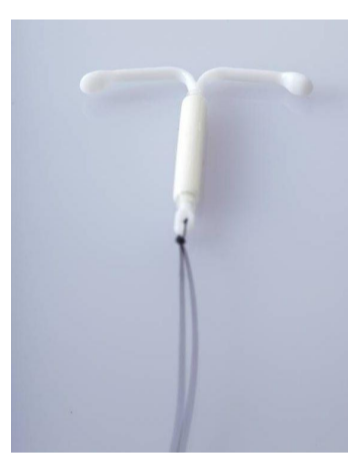
52mg IUS (hormonal coils) are now licenced for 8 years, these are the following brands:

- Mirena
- Benilexa
- Levosert

For patients who have a 52mg IUS already, this means that it can remain in place, and be effective, for 8 years from the fitting date. We will from now be refitting 52mg IUS around the 8 year date.

If a 52mg IUS has been fitted for control of bleeding, part of HRT, or treatment for any other gynaecological problem, this does NOT apply.

The new advice does NOT apply to lower dose IUS (Kyleena and Jaydess).

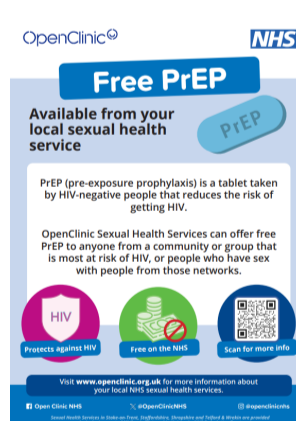


PrEP Key Information and Poster

PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) is a tablet taken by HIV-negative people that reduces the risk of getting HIV.

Our sexual health services can offer free PrEP to anyone from a community or group that is most at risk of HIV, or people who have sex with people from those networks.

We have a new PrEP poster available to download on the Resources section of our website: www.openclinic.org.uk/resources

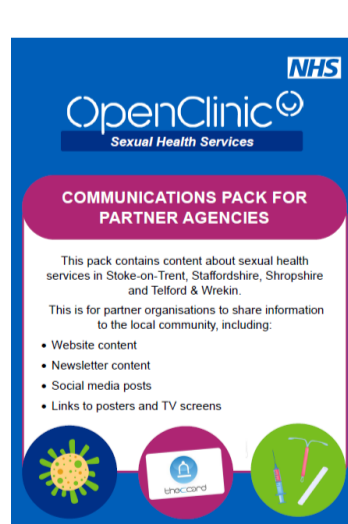


Reminder: Sexual Health Communications Pack for Partner Agencies

We have created a Sexual Health Communications Pack for Partner Agencies, containing a range of sexual health information/resources for a variety of purposes, including websites, newsletters and social media.

Your organisation can then choose the most suitable content to promote sexual health services within your venue or on your channels.

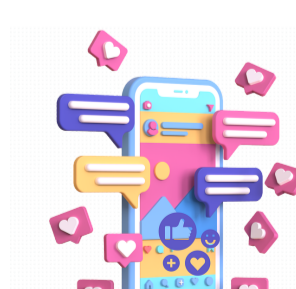
Find the Sexual Health Communications Pack for Partner Agencies on the Resources section of our website, www.openclinic.org.uk/resources.



Find us on Social Media!

We regularly share service updates as well as sexual health tips, information and advice on our social media channels!

We encourage all local organisations to like our page on Facebook ([Open Clinic NHS](#)) and follow us on X ([@OpenClinicNHS](#)) and Instagram ([@openclinicnhs](#)).



C-Card Reminder

C-Card paperwork must be returned by the 5th of the month, to one of the following email addresses:

- Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire: SexualHealthOrders@mpft.nhs.uk
- South Staffordshire: SexualHealthPrevention@mpft.nhs.uk
- Shropshire: SexualHealth.Shropshire@mpft.nhs.uk
- Telford: Telford.Prevention@mpft.nhs.uk

There is no longer an upper age limit to C-Card; it is available to people aged 13+ in all areas.