

RN Supply and Administration of STI Therapies in Publicly Funded Sexual Health Services

Summary This Policy Directive outlines the mandatory requirements for implementation and utilisation of the NSW Protocol to Supply and Administer of STI Therapies by Accredited Registered Nurses Employed in NSW Publicly Funded Sexual Health Services.

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Distributed to Ministry of Health, Public Health System, Government Medical Officers

Audience Clinical, Nursing, Medical, Publicly Funded Sexual Health Services, HIV and Related Programs Managers

RN SUPPLY AND ADMINISTRATION OF STI THERAPIES IN PUBLICLY FUNDED SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICES

POLICY STATEMENT

NSW Health STI treatment protocol increases the likelihood that patients attending NSW Publicly Funded Sexual Health Services (PFSHS) diagnosed with common sexual health infections and their sexual partners will receive treatment in a timely manner, and treatment is available to all patients, regardless of their geographical location.

This Policy Directive outlines the mandatory requirements for implementation and utilisation of the state-wide Supply and Administration of Sexually Transmissible Infection (STI) Therapies under Protocol by Accredited Registered Nurses employed in NSW PFSHS.

SUMMARY OF POLICY REQUIREMENTS

STI treatment protocol authorises a Registered Nurse (RN) employed within a publicly funded sexual health service who has successfully completed an education and accreditation package to supply and/or administer specified medications to eligible patients and their sexual partners for the purpose of treatment of uncomplicated STIs.

Patients and sexual partners are assessed against inclusion criteria.

If inclusion criteria are **not met** then a medical review must be sought.

This protocol is only for:

- The management of patients with a confirmed STI diagnosis (positive laboratory test result or by an accepted diagnostic criteria) and who meet the criteria specified
- OR
- Sexual partners for presumptive treatment of a STI and who meet the criteria specified.

The protocol is only to be used by RNs accredited to supply and administer STI treatments under protocol and in conjunction with the [NSW Sexual Health Services Standard Operating Procedures Manual](#)

Facilities must implement appropriate governance, identify and minimise the risks of adverse events as outlined under Implementation. Medication administration and documentation must be in accordance to *NSW Health Medication Handling in NSW Public Health Facilities* ([PD2013 043](#)). Nurse medication protocols are to be approved by the relevant Drug and Therapeutics Committee to enable the nurse supply and administration of STI medications.

Each medication protocol must be reviewed every 24 months and re-approved as appropriate. Review must include sexual health experts such as Directors of Services, or Staff Specialists and Senior Nurses employed within Publicly Funded Sexual Health Services.

Registered Nurses administering and supplying STI medication under protocol must have successfully completed the requisite education and accreditation packages which include:

- [Sexual Health Services STI Pharmacotherapy education](#) and accreditation package; and
- Clinical competency assessment and accreditation for sexual health nurses as outlined in [Section 7: Education Accreditation Clinical accreditation process](#) of [NSW Sexual Health Standard Operating Procedure](#).

REVISION HISTORY

Version	Approved by	Amendment notes
August-2020 (PD2020_024)	Deputy Secretary, Population and Public Health	Updates to: Pharyngeal gonorrhoea treatment Bacterial vaginosis treatment Chlamydia Treatment – Doxycycline added Medication protocol update process
PD2018_014	Deputy Secretary, Population and Public Health	New Policy

ATTACHMENTS

1. RN Supply and Administration of STI Therapies in Publicly Funded Sexual Health Services: Procedures

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1 BACKGROUND

1.1 About this document

This state-wide Policy Directive outlines the procedure for the decision-making to treat eligible patients with STI treatments by immediately administering the medication or supplying for take-home use.

Under this Policy, an Accredited Registered Nurse (ARN) employed in a NSW publicly funded sexual health services may supply and/or administer sexually transmissible infection therapies to eligible patients and sexual partners.

The medication protocols to be followed by ARN are stored and updated in the online document: [Medication Protocols under NSW Health Policy Directive RN Supply and Administration of STI Therapies in Publicly Funded Sexual Health Services](#). This is to enable regular protocol updates to provide patients best practice therapies.

1.2 Key definitions

Accredited Registered Nurse (ARN)	A registered nurse (RN) who has successfully completed requisite education and training to supply and administer sexually transmissible infection therapies and accredited under the NSW Health Sexual Health Services Standard Operating Procedures Manual.
Administer	To 'administer' means the supervised administration of a medication in a health facility.
Contact tracing	The process of identifying relevant contacts of a person with an infectious disease for the purpose of partner notification.
Diagnostic criteria	An accepted set of standards to determine diagnosis at point of care.
Employed within Publicly Funded Sexual Health Service (PFSHS)	Currently employed within public sexual health service in NSW with appropriate supervision.
Medical record	Patient's medical record within PFSHS. This can be paper based, electronic or a hybrid.
Partner notification	When partners are informed of their possible exposure to an STI and provided information on how to access testing and treatment.
Presumptive treatment	Refers to the administration of antibiotics when the diagnosis is considered likely, but before the results of confirmatory tests are available. Also referred to as epidemiological treatment ¹ .

¹ Judson, FN & Maltz, AB. A rational basis for the epidemiologic treatment of gonorrhoea in a clinic for sexually transmitted diseases. [Sex Transm Dis.](#) 1978 Jul-Sep;5(3):89-92. Accessed 5th of May, 2017

Publicly Funded Sexual Health Service (PFSHS)	Publicly funded sexual health services are available across NSW and provide a range of medical, counselling and health promotion services to those most at risk of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmissible infections on site or via community outreach services.
Registered Nurse (RN)	A Nurse and/or midwife who is registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia, and meets the NMBA's registration standards
Retest	Undertaken to detect reinfection.
Supply	In this document to 'supply' means the provision of a medication for take-home use.
Test of Cure	Assessing for treatment failure, i.e. persistence of infection despite treatment.
Uncomplicated	Status of condition; symptoms not present for more than 7 days including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • urethral discharge, • vaginal discharge, • genital itch or • dysuria, and no additional symptoms such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • intermenstrual bleeding (IMB), • post-coital bleeding (PCB), • lower pelvic pain, • dyspareunia, • fever, • testicular pain, • breaks in skin or ulceration, • anal discharge or bleeding, • anal pain or • tenesmus.

1.3 Legal and legislative framework

Registered nurses employed within sexual health services and accredited to provide medication under this protocol must adhere to the [Nursing and Midwifery Professional Code of Conduct for Nurses](#) and remain accountable for their nursing practice. This includes their scope of practice as per the Nursing and Midwifery Board.

Facilities and accredited RNs operating within this Policy must conform to the NSW Sexual Health Standard Operating Procedures, Local Health District policy and procedures and/or business rules and NSW Health Policy Directive Medication Handling in NSW Public Health Facilities (PD2013_043), *in particular under 7.6: Principles for Safe Medication Administration*.

Under clauses 170 and 171 of the Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008 the Secretary of Health has authorised Accredited Registered Nurses to supply (including administer) the Schedule 4 medications (Section 2.4 - Medication Protocols).

1.4 Medication storage, labelling and supply

Storage of medication within PFSHS are to be in accordance with requirements outlined in the NSW Health Medication Handling in Public Health Facilities (PD2013_043) (*Medication is to be labelled in accordance with Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008*).

Registered nurses may supply and/or administer medication from an imprest located within PFSHS. These medications are packaged and labelled by the hospital/outpatient pharmacy and the imprest meets storage and labelling requirements as outlined in [NSW Health Medication Handling in Public Health Facilities\(PD2013_043\)](#).

Any requirement to use Tall Man lettering on pharmacy labelling and/or within clinical areas is based on local drug and therapeutics guidance.

Advice on use of Tall Man lettering is available here www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/medication-safety/safer-naming-labelling-and-packaging-medicines/national-tall-man-lettering-list.

Under this Policy, registered nurses must record the date medication is supplied for take home use and the first and last name of patient on the pre-packaged medication label prior to supplying. The medication labels must also identify the service contact information (name of PFSHS, address and telephone number).

For every medication supplied and/or administered, documentation within the medication section of the patient's medical record must include the drug name, strength, brand, lot number, expiry date, date of supply, quantity supplied, name, signature and designation.

A flowchart outlining the process of supply and administration by accredited registered nurses under protocol is outlined in the Attachment (Section 3. Attachment 2 [Flowchart - Medication Supply and Administration under Protocol](#))

1.5 Clinical Governance

PFSHS must have an internal medical record audit process in place that includes medication supply and administration undertaken using online [Medication Protocols RN Supply and Administration of STI Therapies in Publicly Funded Sexual Health Services](#).

Medical records quality improvement program standard of practice is outlined in the [NSW Sexual Health Services Standard of Practice Manual](#).

Any medication errors that occur under this Policy must be recorded via IIMS.

1.6 Contact tracing

Contact tracing is a high priority to prevent onward transmission of STI and reinfection of the patient because many sexual partners will be asymptomatic.

Patients diagnosed with chlamydia, gonorrhoea or trichomoniasis must receive explanations regarding the available methods for informing their partners (partner notification) and an offer of assistance in notifying partners. For patients diagnosed with chlamydia, this will also include patient delivered partner therapy (PDPT) (Section 3.2 Azithromycin for treatment of chlamydia as PDPT).

If there are any difficulties with the patient notifying their sexual partners, the nurse is to offer to undertake partner notification on behalf of the patient. For further information, refer to the [NSW Sexual Health Services Standard Operating Procedures Manual - HIV and STI Partner Notification](#)

Sexual partners presenting to PFSHS can be offered presumptive (epidemiological) treatment and STI testing as outlined in the [NSW Sexual Health Services Standards Operating Procedures – HIV and STI Testing](#).

1.7 Documentation

Patient consultations including interventions, patient education, follow up advice and contact tracing/partner notification discussions as part of medication supply and administration are to be documented within the patient's medical record. Patient eligibility for this protocol must be documented within the patient's medical record.

2 ASSESSMENT OF PATIENT TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY UNDER PROTOCOL

2.1 Inclusion criteria

To supply and/or administer medicines under protocol for a sexually transmitted infection the patient must meet all of the following eligibility criteria:

- have an uncomplicated infection,
- have the site of infection specified,
- 14 years of age or over,
- have no contraindications to medication as outlined on individual protocols,

PLUS

- Have a confirmed laboratory test,

OR

- Have diagnosis confirmed at the point of care by the patient's signs and symptoms meeting the accepted diagnostic criteria for that condition,

OR

- Be for the purpose of presumptive treatment of sexual contacts.

2.2 Exclusion criteria

The patient is not eligible for treatment under protocol if the above inclusion criteria are not met. Consultation with a medical officer must be sought.

2.3 Medication Supply/Administration Checklist

Record of STI Diagnosis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laboratory test confirms diagnosis and is located in medical record <i>or</i> • Diagnosis confirmed at point of care and recorded in medical record <i>or</i> • Epidemiological treatment of sexual contact
Patient Administration/Eligibility Criteria Checklist
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is 14 years of age or over? • Reports no chills, body aches or flu like symptoms? • Reports no IMB, PCB, pelvic pain, dyspareunia, fever, testicular pain, and breaks in skin or ulceration or rectal discharge or bleeding; anal pain or tenesmus? • Reports no urethral discharge, vaginal discharge, genital itch or dysuria for more than seven days? • Reports no previous allergy, reaction or hypersensitivity to relevant medication? • Reports no contraindications including drug interactions as outlined on relevant medication protocol? • Pulse is above 50 and below 120 beats per minutes? • Current temperature is above 35.5 and below 38.5 degrees Celsius? • Check NSW STIPU website to ensure correct treatment is used as per Medication Protocols under NSW Health Policy Directive RN Supply and Administration of STI Therapies in Publicly Funded Sexual Health Services.
Patient Education Checklist
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advised no unprotected intercourse until medication complete. • Provided information on how to take medications including drug interactions. • Informed of common side effects associated with medication. • Advised when to seek medical advice in case of allergic reaction or adverse events related to medication. • Advised of expected symptom resolution (if symptoms present). • Advised timing of test of cure and/or retest per medication protocol. • Contact tracing and STI testing of sexual contacts undertaken per medication protocol and NSW Sexual Health Standards Operating Procedures Manual– HIV and STI Testing and HIV and STI Partner Notification.

2.4 Medication Protocols

This Policy Directive aligns with the [Australian STI management guidelines for use in primary care](#) and/or [eTG complete](#). Therapies authorised by the NSW Secretary of Health for Accredited Registered Nurses to supply and/or administer will require a biannual review and updates will be approved by the Head, NSW STI Programs Unit (STIPU), NSW Ministry of Health Chief Pharmacist and Chair of the NSW Health PFSHS Directors group. <https://stipu.nsw.gov.au/sop/medicationprotocols/>

The medication protocols are stored online at [Medication Protocols under NSW Health RN Supply and Administration of STI Therapies in Publicly Funded Sexual Health Services](#). This is to enable regular updates to provide best practice care to patients.

PFSHS will be notified immediately of changes to the protocol.

3 APPENDIX LIST

1. Implementation / Compliance Checklist
2. Supporting standard operating procedures and clinical competencies
3. Algorithm for Supply and Administration of STI Therapies by Accredited Registered Nurses Employed in NSW PFSHS
4. Related Documents - Internal and External
5. Glossary
6. Abbreviations

Attachment 1: Implementation checklist

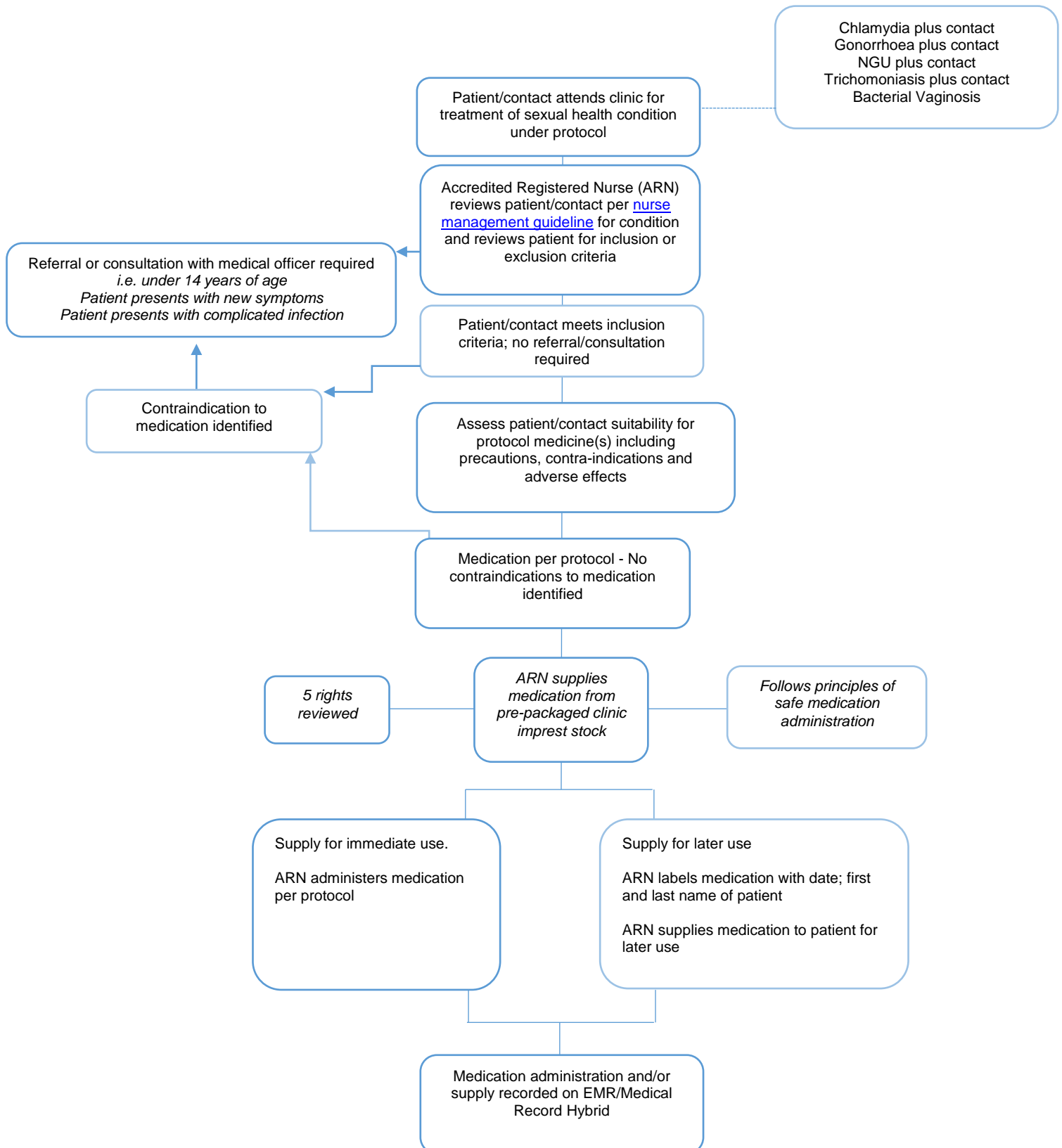
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Attachment 2: Supporting standard operating procedures and clinical competencies

<https://stipu.nsw.gov.au/sop/>

Section Title	Description
HIV and STI partner notification	To provide information and support about contact tracing for health care providers undertaking diagnosis and/or management of sexually transmissible infections (STI) and blood borne viruses (BBV) including HIV.
Laboratory Procedures	To provide information and procedural guidelines on laboratory investigations performed in NSW Sexual Health Services.
Medication Administration	To provide information and procedural guidelines on the administration of medications within publicly funded sexual health services.
Screening Men for STI	To provide procedural guidelines on routine screening and testing for sexually transmissible infections in men including specimen collection.
Screening Women for STI	Procedural guidelines on routine screening and testing for sexually transmissible infections and Pap smears in women including specimen collection.
STI Screening Guidelines for Men Who Have Sex with Men	To provide a guideline on the appropriate types of tests and frequency of STI testing for MSM.
Clinical competency assessment and accreditation for sexual health nurses	To provide a framework for clinical nurses working in PFSHS to undertake a process of clinical competency accreditation within their service.
Delegation of clinical practice	To provide information and procedural guidelines related to the delegation of clinical practices from the Director / Medical Officer to a Registered Nurse. This document outlines the scope of practice for nurses and is used as a training tool for new nurses.
Medical Record Quality Improvement	To provide a framework and set of tools for implementing and maintaining a medical record quality improvement (QI) program.

Attachment 3: Algorithm for Supply and Administration of STI Therapies by Accredited Registered Nurses Employed in NSW PFSHS



Attachment 4: Related Documents

Related Documents Internal

[NSW Sexual Health Services Standard Operating Procedures Manual](#) – NSW STIPU, 2019

NSW Health Infection Prevention and Control Policy (PD2017_013)

https://www1.health.nsw.gov.au/pds/Pages/doc.aspx?dn=PD2017_013

NSW Health Medication Handling in NSW Public Health Facilities, NSW Ministry of Health, Sydney

https://www1.health.nsw.gov.au/pds/Pages/doc.aspx?dn=PD2013_043

NSW Health User-applied Labelling of Injectable Medicines, Fluids and Lines (PD2016_058)

https://www1.health.nsw.gov.au/PDS/pages/doc.aspx?dn=PD2016_058 NSW Health Your Health Rights and Responsibilities (PD2011_022)

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/patientconcerns/Pages/your-health-rights-responsibilities.aspx>

Related Documents External

Australian STI Management Guidelines for Use in Primary Care April 2016, Australasian Sexual Health Alliance (ASHA)

<http://www.sti.guidelines.org.au/>

Consumer Medicine Information

<http://www.tga.gov.au/consumer-medicines-information-cmi>

eTG Complete July, 2017

www.tg.org.au

Attachment 5: Glossary

Aetiology is the causation of diseases and disorders as a subject of investigation²

Amine test is where a drop of vaginal discharge is mixed with a drop of saline on a slide and a drop of 5% potassium hydroxide added. If positive, a fishy amine smell is at once apparent³

Epididymo-orchitis is inflammation of the epididymis, and occasionally the testis⁴

Medication imprest system refers to a specific list and amount of common medications available in PFSHS. Staff monitor the levels and re-order from pharmacy when levels are low

Pelvic Inflammatory Disease a syndrome comprising a spectrum of inflammatory disorders of the upper female genital tract, including any combination of endometritis, salpingitis, tubo-ovarian abscess and pelvic peritonitis⁵

Polymorphonuclear cells are white blood cells containing a segmented lobular nucleus; an eosinophil, basophil, or neutrophil⁶

Proctitis condition in which the lining tissue of the inner rectum becomes inflamed⁷

Tenesmus sensation of incomplete evacuation of the bowel after defecation⁸

² Oxford Dictionary <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/> Accessed 5th of May, 2017

³ Collins Dictionary of Medicine. Robert M. Youngson, 2005.

⁴ Australian STI Management Guidelines For Use in Primary Care April 2016, Australasian Sexual Health Alliance (ASHA). Accessed on November, 11th, 2017. <http://www.sti.guidelines.org.au/>

⁵ Australian STI Management Guidelines For Use in Primary Care April 2016, Australasian Sexual Health Alliance (ASHA). Accessed on November, 11th, 2017. <http://www.sti.guidelines.org.au/>

⁶ Mosby's Dictionary 3rd Edition, 1990.

⁷ Australian STI Management Guidelines For Use in Primary Care April 2016, Australasian Sexual Health Alliance (ASHA) Accessed on November, 11th, 2017. <http://www.sti.guidelines.org.au/>

⁸ Australian STI Management Guidelines For Use in Primary Care April 2016, Australasian Sexual Health Alliance (ASHA). Accessed on November, 11th, 2017. <http://www.sti.guidelines.org.au/>

Attachment 6: List of Abbreviations

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ARN	Accredited Registered Nurse
BBV	Blood Borne Virus
BV	Bacterial Vaginosis
CHC	Combined Hormonal Contraceptives
CMRQI	Continues Medical Record Quality Improvement Program
CNC	Clinical Nurse Consultant
HVS	High Vaginal Swab
IMB	Intermenstrual Bleeding
IMI	Intra Muscular Injection
KOH	Potassium Hydroxide
LHD	Local Health District
LGV	Lymphogranuloma venereum
MC&S	Microscopy, Culture and Sensitivity
MO	Medical Officer
MR	Medical Record
MRN	Medical Record Number
MSM	Men who have Sex with Men
NAAT	Nucleic Acid Amplification Test
NGU	Non-Gonococcal Urethritis
NSW SH SOP	NSW Sexual Health Services Standard Operating Procedures Manual
PCB	Post Coital Bleeding
PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction
PD	Policy Directive
PDPT	Patient Delivered Partner Therapy
PFSHS	(NSW) Publicly Funded Sexual Health Services

PFHF	Per High Power Field
PI	Product Information
PID	Pelvic Inflammatory Disease
PMNL	Polymorphonuclear Leukocyte (polymorph)
PO	Per Oral
PP	Pre Pack
QI	Quality Improvement
RMRQI	Random Medical Record Quality Improvement
RN	Registered Nurse
RNA	Ribonucleic Acid
SHNLN	Sexual Health Nurses Leadership Network
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
STI	Sexually Transmissible Infection
STIPU	(NSW) Sexually Transmissible Infections Programs Unit
TOC	Test of Cure
TV	Trichomoniasis