

## Where to go

Confidential tests and treatment are available from your GP or a doctor of your choice or you could visit one of these metropolitan health services.

Most are free, please telephone first to see if you need an appointment:

### Fremantle Hospital

South Terrace Clinic  
South Terrace, Fremantle  
Phone: 9431 2149

### Royal Perth Hospital

Sexual Health Clinic  
48 Murray St, Perth  
Phone: 9224 2178

[www.rph.wa.gov.au](http://www.rph.wa.gov.au)

### Sexual Health Quarters (SHQ)

70 Roe Street, Northbridge  
Phone: 9227 6177 or  
1800 198 205 – free call from landlines  
and some mobiles

[www.shq.org.au](http://www.shq.org.au)

### Women's Health and Family Services

227 Newcastle Street, Northbridge  
Phone: 6330 5400 or  
1800 998 399 – free call from landlines  
and some mobiles

[www.whfs.org.au](http://www.whfs.org.au)

### Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service

156 Wittenoom Street, Perth  
Phone: 9421 3888

[www.dyhs.org.au](http://www.dyhs.org.au)

And some regional population health units and Aboriginal community controlled health services.

## For more information contact

**Your GP or a doctor of your choice**  
**Healthdirect Australia 1800 022 222**

### Sexual Health Helpline

Phone: 9227 6178 or  
1800 198 205 – free call from landlines  
and some mobiles

### Regional population health units

(Those in bold provide clinical services)

Albany	9842 7500
Broome	9194 1630
Bunbury	9781 2350
<b>Carnarvon</b>	<b>9941 0500</b>
<b>Geraldton</b>	<b>9956 1980</b>
Kalgoorlie-Boulder	9080 8200
Northam	9622 4320
<b>South Hedland</b>	<b>9174 1660</b>

or visit:

[www.healthywa.wa.gov.au](http://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au)

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This document can be made available  
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a person with disability.

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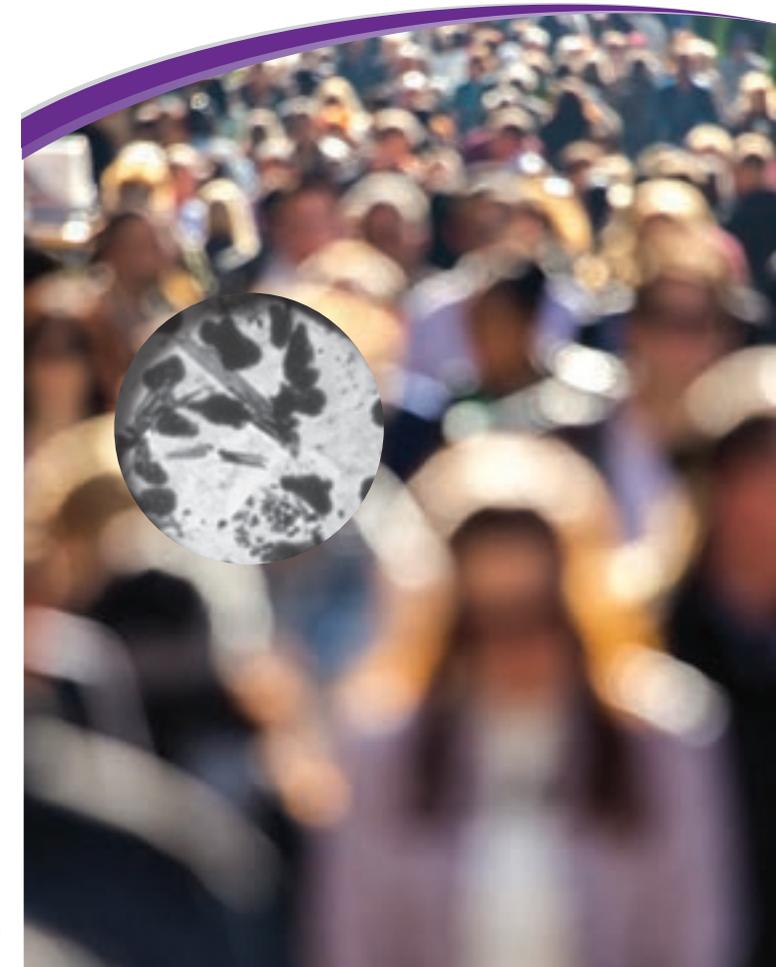
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Government of Western Australia  
Department of Health  
Public and Aboriginal Health Division

## Your sexual health

# Gonorrhoea



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## What is gonorrhoea?

Gonorrhoea ('the clap') is a sexually transmitted infection caused by the *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* bacteria.

## How is it spread?

You can catch gonorrhoea by having unprotected vaginal, oral or anal sex with an infected person.

An infected mother can pass gonorrhoea on to her baby during birth, which can cause blindness.

## Signs and symptoms

Most boys and men get a yellow discharge from the penis and a burning sensation when passing urine, within one week of getting infected.

Most girls and women have no symptoms at all. Some may notice unusual vaginal discharge or pain when passing urine. If the infection spreads to the uterus (womb) and fallopian tubes (which carry eggs to the uterus), it can cause lower belly pain, or pain during vaginal sex.

A sore throat or discharge from the rectum can also be symptoms of gonorrhoea in both men and women, especially after oral or anal sex.

Unless it's found and treated early, gonorrhoea can lead to infertility (so you can't have a baby) in both men and women. In rare cases, the infection can spread to the joints, heart and brain, causing permanent damage or even death.

**If you have any of these symptoms** – or if you are having sex with anyone and don't know if they have an infection – **visit a doctor as soon as possible and ask for a check-up.**

## Checking it out

Your doctor will test a sample of urine, and test areas likely to be affected using a swab. The samples will be tested in a laboratory. It's a good idea to have tests for other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) such as chlamydia, syphilis and HIV at the same time.

If you do have gonorrhoea, all your sex partners will also need to be checked. This is always done carefully, respecting everyone's confidentiality.

## Treatment

Gonorrhoea is treated with antibiotics. The treatment varies depending on where you caught the infection: interstate or overseas.

After treatment is finished, you'll need another test to make sure you are cured. This is very important as some types of gonorrhoea can be difficult to treat and may require additional antibiotics. Don't have sex, even with a condom, until the treatment is finished and tests show you are cured.

## Protecting yourself and your partner

The safest ways to protect against gonorrhoea and other STIs are to:

- **always use condoms with water based lubricant or dams.** Condoms and dams are the best way of protecting you both against gonorrhoea and other STIs. Always use a condom or dam until you are totally sure that both you and your partner don't have an STI.
- **have a long-term relationship** where neither of you is already infected, and neither of you have other partners.

- **limit your sex partners.** The fewer people you have sex with, the less chance of having sex with someone who has gonorrhoea.
- **have regular STI check-ups.**

Talking about STIs can be difficult, but any person you have sex with has a right to know if you have an STI. Discuss it when you are feeling relaxed and confident, not just before you have sex. Your partner will appreciate your honesty and that you don't want to infect him/her. You have the right to know if they are infected, too.

If you think you might have been exposed to gonorrhoea, have a check-up at a doctor's surgery or at any of the places listed in this pamphlet.

Early treatment will cure the infection and stop it spreading.