

Contact Tracing for Sexually Transmissible Infections in General Practice

A report on the current practice of contact tracing in Queensland was produced in October 2007. The Contact Tracing Project investigated models available to Queensland Health to improve the level of contact tracing of sexually transmissible infections (STIs). The report acknowledged that to improve the reach of contact tracing in Queensland, increased support for clinicians (including GPs, health workers and sexual health clinicians) is needed.

A new project has commenced and will trial approaches for assisting clinicians for notifying partners of persons diagnosed with a sexually transmissible infection (STI).

A Contact Tracing Support Officer (CTSO) program will be employed to support clinicians to adequately conduct and complete contact tracing and partner notification following diagnosis of a notifiable STI. Networks will be formed with GPs and Practice nurses as well as other health workers including indigenous health and sexual health workers and sexual health clinic doctors and nurses.

In order for the project to assist you in the most appropriate manner, it would be very much appreciated if you would complete the questions below.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

Do you advise patients diagnosed with an STI to tell their sexual partners to be tested for STI's?

		NO	YES					
Tick all appropriate boxes				Always	Sometimes	Never		
Patient reluctant give details	Why Not ?		Who ?	Current partner only				
Patient unable to give details				Past partner only				
Not aware contact tracing was required								
Poor resources available to support Dr				Method ?	Patient contacts partners			
Uncomfortable with sexual health issues					Dr contacts partners			
Time constraints					Nurse contacts partners			
Other: Please comment	Other: Please comment							
				How ?				
				Letter only to partner/s				
				Letter and information about STI to partner/s				
				Verbal telephone contact with partner/s				
				SMS/TEXT only				
				E-mail to partner/s				
				Other: comment				

Resources for contact tracing Indicate resources have you used or that you would find useful Tick all appropriate boxes			Have Used	Would use
Australasian Contact Tracing Manual (ASHM 2006)				
Information on contact tracing policies and procedures				
Information on contact tracing methods				
Management algorithms				
Referral pathway information				
Education sessions available On-line				
Education sessions available Face to Face				
A designated Contact Tracing Support Officer to seek advice from				
Website with contact tracing information, fact sheets and resources				
Clear concise form for contact tracing to ensure completion				
Website that allows for e-mail and SMS notification of partners				
Information for patient explaining the rationale of contact tracing				
Other suggestions:				

I would like to be contacted by a Contact Tracing Support Officer

Contact details:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Fax: _____

Please return to:

Sara Bell A/Principal Program Adviser Sexual Health
 Postal Address: PO Box 2368, Fortitude Valley BC QLD 4006
 E-mail: sara_bell@health.qld.gov.au
 Fax: 07 3328 9720