



Dear _____

This letter has been sent to you because someone you have had sex with has Syphilis.

Syphilis, which is an infection that is becoming increasingly common in our community, is passed from one person to another through sexual contact.

You can have syphilis even though you don't have any symptoms. The only way to find out is to be tested by a doctor.

Syphilis is easily treated and we suggest you discuss treatment with your doctor.

We have attached a fact sheet on syphilis and a letter you can take to your doctor.

Please don't ignore this letter because, if syphilis is not treated, it may cause long-term harm to your body.

If you would like to know more, you can go to *website* www.letthemknow.org.au

If you live in NSW call the **Sexual Health Infoline** on 1800 451 624 to speak to a sexual health nurse.

If you live in Queensland visit the **Queensland Department of Health Sexual Health**

Regards

Let Them Know
Melbourne Sexual Health Centre
(a service of The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne.
Supported by the NSW STI Programs Unit)



Dear Doctor,

A partner of your patient has been diagnosed with syphilis.

We recommend that you test your patient for syphilis by ordering RPR & EIA serology.

Note: Serology may be negative in a patient who has been exposed and infected with syphilis for up to 90 days after exposure.

We also recommend your patient be tested for other STI's such as gonorrhoea, chlamydia and HIV.

If your patient has been exposed to someone with syphilis less than 90 days ago we recommend that they are treated presumptively today, without waiting for their test result, so that treatment is completed even if the test is negative.

The current recommendation for epidemiological treatment of an individual exposed to syphilis is:

- Benzathine penicillin G 1.8 g IM single dose ^{1,2}
- If the patient is allergic to penicillin:
- Doxycycline 100 mg BD for 14 days may be considered.
- Doxycycline may not be as effective as the penicillin based regimens above, and should not be considered as first line treatment.

If you have any questions regarding positive syphilis results, the treatment of syphilis, or the availability and administration of benzathine penicillin, please contact a sexual health physician at **Melbourne Sexual Health Centre**.

For more information please visit www.mshc.org.au

If you live in NSW visit **Sexually Transmissible Infections (STIs) and Blood Borne Viruses (BBVs) Factsheets - NSW Department of Health** or ring the **NSW Sexual Health Infoline** on 1800 451 624.'

If you live in Qld visit **Qld Department of Health Sexual Health Website**

¹ State of Victoria: Therapeutic Guidelines Antibiotic. Version eTG Complete 2014 available from the Therapeutic Guidelines Limited web site - www.tg.com.au

² Sexually Transmitted Diseases Treatment Guidelines 2015; MMWR 2015, 64 available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention web site - www.cdc.gov