



Dear \_\_\_\_\_

Since I last saw you I've been told that I have syphilis. It's an infection that's passed on through sex. So, you might have this infection too.

Even if you don't have any symptoms you can still have the infection. The only way to be sure you are OK is to get tested and treated by your doctor. The treatment is easy and effective.

It's important to get checked because, if left untreated, syphilis can cause long-term health problems.

I've included a fact sheet on syphilis and a letter you can take along to your doctor  
If you want to know more you can visit this website

**[www.letthemknow.org.au/partners.html](http://www.letthemknow.org.au/partners.html)**

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**

Sorry to give you this news but I'm concerned about your health and I thought it was better that you knew.

Regards



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 <sup>1,2</sup>
- 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](http://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**

<sup>1</sup> State of Victoria: Therapeutic Guidelines Antibiotic. Version eTG Complete 2014 available from the Therapeutic Guidelines Limited web site - [www.tg.com.au](http://www.tg.com.au)

<sup>2</sup> Sexually Transmitted Diseases Treatment Guidelines 2015; MMWR 2015, 64 available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention web site - [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)