



What a Chlamydia Test Involves

What the test involves

Testing for Chlamydia infection has become very simple. In fact there is no need to undress or be examined by a doctor or nurse since the test can now be done on a urine sample. There are two main ways to test for Chlamydia infection:

1. pass a small amount of urine into a sterile urine container
2. have a swab taken from the cervix (in women) or the urethra (in men) and/ or from the rectum (back passage) if you have had unprotected anal sex

Most of us would probably choose the urine test anyday! But sometimes it's just as simple to have a swab taken. For example, if you are a woman having your routine Pap smear, a swab of the cervix can be taken at the same time. If you are a man and are having an examination of your genital area as part of a check up or because you have symptoms you're worried about, it can be very straightforward to have a swab of the urethra taken at the same time.

Of course, when you visit your GP or another health service for a Chlamydia test, it's likely that they won't just send you off for a test and nothing else. Ideally, they will spend a bit of time talking to you about your health and sexual health generally, and explain what the test involves and what will happen if it is positive.

Cost

There can be two costs involved with a Chlamydia test. The first is the cost of seeing the GP or service itself. When a doctor or nurse arranges for you to have a Chlamydia test, the urine sample or swab is then sent to a laboratory for analysis. The laboratory also charges to do the test. In some clinics this is free, but in most there is a charge.

Laboratories can also bulk bill you, in the same way as GPs can. You can ask your GP to request that the laboratory bulk bills you. If you do have to pay the laboratory, you can claim most of this back from Medicare. If you do not want your home address written on the form that accompanies your urine sample or swab to the laboratory, let the doctor or nurse know.