

# Aotearoa New Zealand STI Management Guidelines for Use in Primary Care

## People recently discharged from correctional facilities

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### Overview

- People who spend time in the care of correctional facilities often live with complex physical and mental health conditions and have had difficulties accessing appropriate care in the community
- Socio-economic and lifestyle factors also influence the burden of disease and lead to worse health outcomes
- In Aotearoa New Zealand, more than 50% of the prison population identify as Māori
- Ara Poutama Aotearoa (Department of Corrections) aims to carry out a health check, including sexual health screening, on all prisoners at admission
- Recent data from correctional facilities in northern Aotearoa New Zealand show that the prevalence of chlamydia and gonorrhoea is twice that of the general community
- For women, syphilis rates are twice those of the general population and trichomoniasis prevalence is over 3 times higher in correctional facilities, with 20% of those tested for trichomoniasis returning a positive test result
- 3% of samples from men in correctional facilities are reactive for syphilis, reflecting a high burden of past or current disease
- Similar to sexually transmitted infections (STIs), prevalence of hepatitis C antibody (6.5%) is much higher in correctional facilities than in the general

population (1%); hepatitis B is also prevalent

- Injecting drug use and unsafe tattooing practices can occur in correctional facilities
- There is currently no formal handover system from prison health centres to external general practices

### **Testing advice**

As per sexual health check guideline

- All people should have a risk assessment for sexual health and bloodborne virus infection when attending their first GP appointment after discharge from correctional facilities
- This should include questions on sexual behaviour to determine appropriate testing and management. Men who report sex with other men should have multi-site STI screening
- All women with a history of incarceration should be offered trichomoniasis testing as part of screening

### **Special considerations**

- The GP should contact the prison health centre if medical records are unavailable
- Sexual assault can occur in prison, and may not be reported. Offer referral to local sexual assault services if disclosed

### **Follow up**

If test results are positive, refer to appropriate STI guideline for management advice

Even if all test results are negative, use the opportunity to:

- Educate about condom use and risk minimisation
- Vaccinate for hepatitis B, if susceptible (unfunded)
- Discuss and activate reminders for regular testing according to risk, especially if behaviours indicate the need for more frequent testing

**Endorsement:** These guidelines have been endorsed by the Blood Borne Viruses

and Sexually Transmitted Infections Standing Committee (BBVSS).

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