

Checking a Client



Checking every client is a way of avoiding a health issue that could cause time off, inconvenience, loss of income not to mention the pain and annoyance that having an STI can create. This fact sheet explains how to protect your sexual health by checking male, female and transgender clients for visual signs of a sexually transmitted infection (STI). It also explains what to do if you think your client has an STI.

What are you going to be reading about?...

- Why should I check my clients?
- Sneaky, discreet methods for checking for an STI
- Traditional method of checking a male, female or transgender client for an STI
- Checking a client before oral contact
- Checking before anal sex
- What to do if you find an STI
- Dealing with a client you suspect may have an STI if you're in an establishment or agency with other workers around
- Dealing with a client you suspect has an STI if you're on your own
- Redirecting a client with a bad attitude
- How to refer a client to a doctor if either of you are suspicious they may have an STI
- Caring for yourself

Why should I check my clients?

Checking a client for STIs does have its limitations because you can't visually check for all STIs. What we can check for are STIs that have visual signs, including crabs, herpes, warts, molluscum contagiosum and scabies.

What we can't check for, or it's very difficult to check for, are STIs that are transmitted through body fluids like HIV, Hepatitis A and B, chlamydia, gonorrhea, trichomoniasis, bacterial vaginosis or warts & herpes when there are not any symptoms visible.

Because we can't see all STIs, it's very important and it's also the law that we wear condoms, use dental dams and gloves (depending on where

you'll be sticking your fingers) for all sexual contact.

When checking for an STI it is also important that you have a look around all of the skin where STIs can grow, including penis, balls, vagina, mouths, thighs and butts. A condom only covers a dick, and a dental dam only covers a butt hole or a vulva, so if your client has an STI on their thigh or balls, you're going to risk STI transmission. If you're unsure of what to look for when checking a client, you can ask another worker, contact your local sexual health clinic, look at an STI resource that has pictures of all the STIs or give us a call at Respect Inc before you actually start work.

The basic rule is, when doing a visual check for an STI, whether it be on a male, female or a transgender client, have a good look for any lumps, sores, ulcers, pimples, broken skin, warts, rashes or anything that looks like a thick white, yellow or green discharge on their genitals and all surrounding areas.

There are two methods for checking for STIs; the traditional (nurse-style) and the sneaky (sex worker style). The best way to do an STI check is to find a way that you're comfortable with and is effective with the way you work.

There is no point in dragging your client over to the nearest lamp or shining a torch on their genitals if it's going to send him running from the room in horror. Try to work out a quick and safe way that is sexy or entertaining for the client and doesn't take up too much of the booking time.

Sneaky, discreet methods for checking for an STI

Using a flash light and shining it on your clients' genitals is not always going to make for a good booking and a happy client. We have developed our own subtle yet effective techniques for checking clients and they include:

- Get close to a client's genitals and use breath play to part the pubes and check for pubic lice, any lesions, scabs and pimples. Because we are close to the genitals, we can also check the colour and smell of your client's pre-cum.
- Use your hair or position your body so it brushes your client's chest and blocks the view, so they can't look down and see you examining their genitals but watch out for transmission of head lice.
- Massage your client's feet, legs and thighs to work your way up their legs so you get a closer look at their inner thighs and genitals. It can also get the pre-cum flowing, so you can check the colour of it.
- Putting condoms on with your mouth gets you as close to a man's genitals as you can without him realising you're giving him an STI check. Putting a condom on with your mouth can also be done so that your hands don't come in contact with their genitals at all.
- Give your client a body slide and a reverse body slide while pinning their arms to the bed with your legs so they can't touch you. Both of these massage positions get you up close to a client's genitals.
- Tell your client you feel like being kinky and you want to blindfold them. While their blindfolded, you can study their genitals.
- Be sure to have a bedside lamp or candle next to your bed so there is enough light to check, but there is no need to have a light that will blind you and your client. Be careful not to drip the candle wax on the client and watch out for fires! By using these techniques, you can give your client an STI check and usually they won't even realise you're doing it. They also allow you to give your client an STI check without actually having to touch their genitals.

“You can check for STIs in different ways. No one way is right or wrong.”

Traditional method of checking a male, female or transgender client for an STI

1. Do the check BEFORE the client urinates or has a shower and washes away any discharge.
2. Try to make the client feel comfortable by explaining that the check is for their good as well as for yours.
3. Tell the client you check everyone—including regulars. You could try playing around a bit: tell them you always wanted to be a nurse. Develop a routine that works for you.
4. Take the client to where the light is good, or take a penlight or small torch to work and use that.
5. Get your eyes level with their genitals so that you can have a good look. Just opening the fly of their pants or lifting up their dress is not good enough. It's best to have their genitals right out so that you can look at all of their genitals, between their legs and anal area. Even if you are not offering services involving the anal area, you should still check the anal area. Part the pubic hair and look for crabs and their eggs. Pull gently along the hair with your fingernails and look for pubic lice (pinhead size lumps or anything that moves).
6. Check the head and shaft of the penis and/or vagina, and the anus for sores, cracks in the skin, a red rash, herpes sores or blisters, warts, pimples, or ulcers. Don't touch them if you can avoid it. If you do, make sure you wash your hands with soapy water.
7. If your client has a penis that is not circumcised, pull the foreskin back and check for swelling, discharge, sores, cuts, warts and ulcers. Cheesy discharge under the foreskin or vagina is not necessarily a sign of any infection—it's just bad hygiene.
8. Check the entire genital area—between the legs and around the anus for any other lumps, sores, ulcers, pimples, broken skin, warts or rashes.
9. Before the penis is erect, milk it firmly by running your thumb and finger from the base to the tip in one firm motion. A cloudy, milky

or yellowish discharge, unusual smell, pus or blood is not healthy and can be a sign of infection. Make sure you know the difference from normal (clear) pre-cum fluid. Similarly with a woman, check the vaginal area for any cloudy, milky or smelly discharge.

“Check the entire body for signs of STIs, not just the genitals”

If you do STI checks using this method, please be careful with cross-contamination. If you get some of a client’s pre-cum on your hands or brush up against a herpes sore without realising it and then put your hand on your genitals, you could transmit the STI to yourself. Be sure to use the ‘one hand for me, one hand for them’ method and wash your hands after checking them if possible.

Checking a client before oral contact

If you are going to let the client kiss you or go down on you, then check their mouth for sores, cuts or bleeding gums and use a dam.

Checking before anal sex

If you are going to perform penetrative anal sex on the client, you should check the client very carefully. Ask them if they have prepared themselves by cleaning out their anal passage, especially if you are going to using a strap-on, your own penis or engage in fisting. If you are going to do anything more than insert a slim toy, you can be more specific and ask them when their last bowel movement was or if they have had an enema. Some workers who do anal play, especially in the BDSM field, will be able to offer their clients enemas to use and can incorporate it into part of the service. If you don’t trust their answer, then you can check by slipping your finger into a condom, glove or finger cot and slip it into their butt. It’s much better to check beforehand otherwise you may be in for a nasty surprise. If you are using a strap-on, it’s an especially good idea to check first because if he’s packed, you could end up with faecal matter all over your legs and genital area without knowing it, which could give you a urinary tract infection.

What to do if you find an STI

If you find something wrong, the client may be genuinely surprised or upset, as most members of the general public don’t get STI checks. Some may be aware that there is a problem and try to get you to ignore it by pretending to be surprised or angry or they may give you the line: “No that’s not an STI. I’ve had those nobs on my bits since I was 12”. While they may just be skin tags, it’s up to you to decide if you accept their explanation or not. If this happens, don’t back down and don’t allow them to manipulate you into going through with the booking. Did you know that sex workers can be sexual health educators? Some clients may suspect they have an STI and come to a sex worker for an opinion because they are too scared or embarrassed to go and see their local doctor or family GP. These clients will generally be open to having a conversation about a suspected STI and will ask the worker where to go and what to do to get it checked out and treated. It is not our role to attempt to diagnose an STI because we’re not qualified to do so and we may get it wrong. What we can do however, is talk to our clients about any concerns and give them the information they need to get it diagnosed by a professional. If you are having trouble convincing your client that the wart on their naughty bits really could be a wart, you can always pull out your STI book (call Respect Inc and we can give you a copy) and show them a picture of the suspected STI. This will often stop your client debating the fact that he may have an STI with you. There’s nothing like having a picture of it in full colour to make someone understand your concerns.

Dealing with a client you suspect may have an STI if you’re in an establishment or agency with other workers around

If you’re not sure and you’re in a place where other workers can assist, get a second opinion from another worker or staff member. Never attempt to diagnose an STI because we’re not qualified to do so and we may get it wrong. If you do get a second opinion, try to back each other up even if no one is sure; it is better to be safe than sorry. Remember that the second opinion never overrides yours and no-one should ever force or pressure you into servicing someone who you

believe may have an STI. If you get a second opinion, go outside the room to discuss it before & after it's done. Remember not to discuss it front of the client, as they will most likely be feeling uncomfortable and you want to present a united front. Suggest to the client they go to a sexual health clinic to get an STI test. Many clients will be grateful if you are able to supply them with a referral number discreetly.

“Some clients do know they have an STI and some don't . Keep this in mind when talking about it with them “If you suspect a client has an STI, try to redirect them to do something where you don't have to touch them.”

Dealing with a client you suspect has an STI if you're on your own

If you're on your own with no one who can help you with a second opinion, you could suggest to your client:

- You cannot have sex with them, but can put on a toy show or do some erotic dancing while he watches and jerks off.
- If they don't wish to stay because you won't have sex with them, offer them some of their money back and ask them to leave immediately.
- Let them know you think they may have an STI and need to go and get treated for it and once they are treated, they are welcome to come back and you'll treat them extra special.
- Let them know it is not polite or safe that they have come to see you with a bump on their naughty bit, you don't appreciate it and direct them to the shower so they can jerk off and leave.
- Let them know you won't be able to have sex with them, but you're more than happy to talk to them or maybe do a sexy show for them or some other erotic play that does not risk STI transmission for the duration of the booking either for a reduced rate or full rate.
- Suggest your client goes to a sexual health clinic to get proper attention and explain that most STIs can be treated and sooner rather than later is better for everyone.

Redirecting a client with a bad attitude

If a client you suspect has an STI is aggressive and you don't think it's safe to ask them to leave, try and negotiate a service with limited sexual contact.

Suggest you do things in positions that keep you in control and let you position your body, especially your genitals out of his reach. Try redirecting your client by being charming while being assertive and suggesting something horny to sell the idea.

For example: “Oh my god! You know what I LOVE doing? There is nothing hornier than doing porn. Give me your phone and lie on your back on the bed and jerk off. Just as you're about to cum, I'm going to take a picture of your cock spurting cum. Then tomorrow when you're at work, look at the picture and remember what it was like to have me watching you stroke your dick as I stood there with the camera playing with myself and taking pictures of your cum spurting. HOT HOT HOT!”

Dirty talk and a fantasy will generally work with redirecting a client, especially if you sound genuinely excited while you say it.

How to refer a client to a doctor if either of you are suspicious they may have an STI

Referring a client to a sexual health service can be the best gift you can give a client and the next worker they go on to bonk. To refer a client, think about the way you'd like to be spoken to if someone just told you that you may have an STI:

- Be calm because it will keep your client calm.
- Be matter of fact because the facts make people feel more in control and confident.
- Let them know that sexual health services are confidential and they don't need to give their name or Medicare Card and they are less likely to meet the next door neighbour.
- Tell them that at most sexual health services, you can make an appointment to have an STI test done, so they won't have to sit around waiting for hours.
- Let them know why you prefer a sexual health service over going to a GP.

- It may be because they test for more STIs than a GP, they don't judge you or make you feel weird, they are one-stop-shops so they can do bloodtests, swabs and urine tests all in the one appointment, and any other reason you can think of. Sharing your experiences in this situation can really help to make someone feel calmer and more confident.
- Either give them the number of an STI service you don't go to, or let them know they can find the numbers for themselves in the White Pages, by Googleing or looking it up on the Queensland Health website. Some sex workers prefer not to refer clients with a suspected STI to their own clinic for privacy reasons.

“If you refer a client for a sexual health check up, think about how you'd like to be spoken to if it was you with the STI.”

Caring for yourself

Safe sex practices and STI checks are only half of the story when it comes to protecting yourself. To protect yourself as best as you can, it's important get your sexual health checked regularly to ensure that you detect any STI infections early and get treated.

Sometimes a client may want to check you for an STI which will involve him poking and prodding you. Many sex workers find a client doing this quite invasive and rude.

It is your decision whether you allow a client to do this or not. If you don't want him to do it, you could explain that you get tested regularly and that your body is your tool of trade so you look after it and are not at risk of infection. You could also try redirecting him with “Sweetheart as much as I love you poking around with your fingers, wouldn't you rather do it with your penis?” Be charming, be assertive and make it horny... works every time!

Places to go if you need a sexual healthcheck or want to discuss medical issues further

Sexual health & HIV clinics

AIDS Medical Unit Brisbane
07 3837 5622 (existing client or your partners is, only)

Bamaga Sexual Health Clinic
07 4090 4219

Brisbane Sexual Health Clinic
07 3837 5611

Bundaberg Health Clinic (Q Clinic)
07 4150 2754

Cairns Sexual Health Clinic (The Dolls House)
07 4050 6205

Cape York Health Service District Program
07 4082 3651

Gold Coast Sexual Health Service (Miami)
07 5576 9033

Ipswich Sexual Health Service (S.H.op101)
07 3817 2428

Mackay Sexual Health and Sexual Assault Service
07 4968 3919

Mt Isa Sexual Health Services
07 4744 4805

Palm Island Sexual Health Service
07 4752 5100

Redcliffe/Caboolture Sexual Health and HIV Service
07 3897 6300

Rockhampton Sexual Health and HIV Service
07 4920 5555

Sunshine Coast – Wide Bay Sexual Health & HIV Service
07 5470 5244

Thursday Island – Men's and Women's Health
07 4069 0413

Toowoomba (Kobi House)
07 4616 6446

Townsville Sexual Health Unit
07 4778 9600

Weipa Sexual Health Program
07 4090 6206

Wolloongabba Princess Alexandra Sexual Health (PASH or PA)
07 3240 5881

“We cant check for all STI’s, only the STI’s that show visual symptoms”

Disclaimer:

All material in this fact sheet is provided for your information only and may not be construed as legal, medical or health advice or instruction.

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