



Please feel free to contact the Health Advisers on: **020 8846 1579** if you would like to discuss this service further or if you have any questions.



Nearest tube stations:  
Hammersmith, Barons Court  
Bus routes: 190, 211, 220, 295

The Pearl Service  
West London Centre for Sexual Health  
Charing Cross Hospital  
Fulham Palace Road  
London W6 8RF

In partnership with Hammersmith  
and Fulham Learning Disability Team

[www.chelwest.nhs.uk](http://www.chelwest.nhs.uk)

Chelsea and Westminster Hospital **NHS**  
NHS Foundation Trust

# The Pearl Service

Sexual health screening  
and advice for people  
with learning disabilities

Information for parents,  
carers & professionals



### **What is the Pearl Service?**

It is a dedicated, easy access service for people with learning disabilities, offering screening for sexually transmitted infections (including HIV) and offering advice and information around safer sex. Free condoms and lubricant are available as well as contraceptive services.

### **Where is it based?**

The Pearl Service is part of The West London Centre for Sexual Health at Charing Cross Hospital on Fulham Palace Road, London.

### **Does the client have to pay or live in a particular postcode?**

No, our service is free and open access as part of the NHS.

### **Is an appointment necessary?**

It is always best to book an appointment so we can offer the best possible service. However, if it is an emergency during clinic hours we try to be flexible.

### **How can I refer somebody to the service?**

Clients can refer themselves or can be referred by GPs, family members, carers, case workers and social workers with the client's consent.

**Call the Health Advisers on 020 8846 1579 and ask for an appointment in the Pearl Service.**

### **Can someone accompany the client to the clinic?**

Of course, but we will always check with the client if they are happy to have the

accompanying person in the room with them when they are being asked about their sexual history.

### **How long will the client be in the clinic?**

A sexual health check-up, including consultations and tests, usually takes around 2 hours.

### **How will the client get their results?**

Generally speaking, we will ask the client to return in person for their results in 1 week, although initial results will often be available on the day. However, we will discuss with the client the most suitable way for them to receive their results which may include by telephone, e-mail, text or letter.

### **Will everything the client tells the clinic be confidential?**

We maintain strict rules of confidentiality and generally would not pass on any information about the client and their care to anyone without their consent. However, where the risk to health, safety or welfare of the client (or others) outweighs the right to privacy, we would follow local protocols which would initially consist of discussion with senior members of staff.

### **Does the client have to give their full address?**

It is important we have a full post code for funding purposes and a way of contacting the client eg address, e-mail or mobile telephone number, but we do not need a full address if the client does not wish to give it.