

Syphilis Point of Care at DYHS

STI/BBV Quarterly – March 2023

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Derbarl Yerrigan Health Services

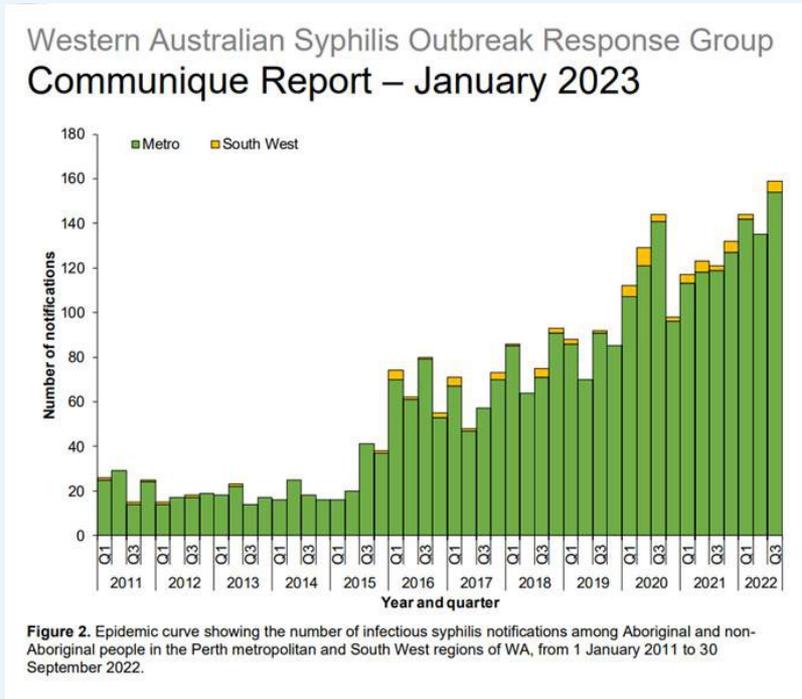
- ACCHO in Perth Metropolitan Area
- Established in 1974
- 20,000 patients (5,000 transient)
- Consist 4 Clinics:
 - East Perth
 - Mirrabooka
 - Maddington
 - Midland



Syphilis in WA

Mid 2020 – Chief Health Officer authorized state wide public health response to infectious syphilis

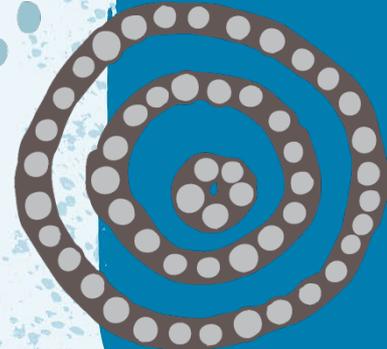
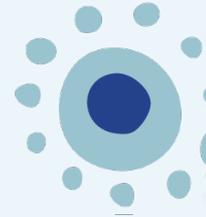
*The concern being – increasing rates of Congenital Syphilis



April 2021:

Department of Health (WA) and Flinders University offered health services access to Syphilis Point of Care Tests – with the Abbott test strips.

1. Establish a policy and protocol at DYHS
2. Education staff regarding syphilis and the POCT program
3. Establish a registry
4. Streamline and modify – Clinical Items



General Protocols

DYHS all patients are screened by AHP/RN prior to seeing GP

- screening consists of checking pts vitals signs (BP, PR, BSL etc), reason for presentation and aims to include other facets such as testing HbA1c/ACR

The Syphilis POCT was incorporated into screening

AHP/RN given general guidelines on POCT

- females of reproductive age, homeless, MSM, pregnant, those seeking STI, anyone who has had sex (and any patient that is accepting of testing)

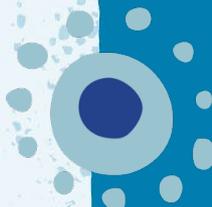
Positive/negative results entered into clinical item – and passed to GP

Education

75 clinical staff (AHP/RN/GP) have been educated on Syphilis POCT

Weekly reminders about syphilis and POCT – sent to all clinical staff weekly (via email and discussed regularly at morning communication huddles)

- *to complete testing
- *update on syphilis outbreak
- *clinical information about syphilis



Development of Syphilis Registry at DYHS



2021 – started with 90 known/documented cases of syphilis

Review of all clinical items, previous serology results = resulted in increasing numbers of documented cases

As of March 2023 = 409 known cases on DYHS registry

- 1969-2017 = 179 cases (37 untreated/unclear treatment)
- 2017 to current = 209 cases (17 incomplete)
- 37 unknown/undefined cases

*of known cases – 14% remain untreated/undertreated – all have received at least 1x LAB

*nil infectious cases at DYHS

**Registry is maintained by 2x sexual health nurses and 1x GP

Clinical Items



Clinical Items developed:

1. Syphilis Audit
2. Syphilis Point of Care
3. Syphilis diagnosis
4. LA Bicillin

Prior to 2021 – DYHS has multiple clinical items attributed to syphilis

*making diagnosis and clear management unclear

SYPHILIS AUDIT



Add Clinical Item - AAA, TREVOR 62yrs Fictitious Patient Male

Syphilis Audit

Daniel Hunt, DYHS - Central Site (Aboriginal Health Service) 01/01/2023 07:48:13

No interaction decision support is available for this 'condition' clinical item.

Comment Display on Main Summary

From Date

Date Diagnosis (No previous values)

Stage of syphilis (No previous values)

RPR at Diagnosis Number (No previous values)

Treatment of syphilis (No previous values)

RPR Monitoring (No previous values)

Contact tracing done (No previous values)

Effective RPR drop (No previous values)

Viewing right: Common

AAA, TREVOR

SYPHILIS POINT OF CARE



Add Clinical Item - AAA, TREVOR 62yrs Fictitious Patient Male

Syphilis:point of care test
Daniel Hunt, DYHS - Central Site (Aboriginal Health Service) 01/01/2023 07:48:13

Comment Display on Main Summary

Performed date

Screening Assessment and Results

Known syphilis antibodies [✕](#)

Syphilis PoC test consent given? Yes No Blank (07/09/2021 Yes) [✕](#)

Syphilis PoC test result [✕](#)

STI sign: Other sign or symptom details

Regular STI testing is recommended for young people: refer to your local guidelines.

STI test offered [✕](#)

Syphilis serology

Syphilis and STI serology

STI screening/assessment comments

Treatment Details

Syphilis LA Bicilin 1.8g Yes No Blank (07/09/2021 Yes) [✕](#)

STI Ceftriaxone 500mg/Azithromycin 1g Yes No Blank (07/09/2021 Yes) [✕](#)

STI: Other treatment details

Is contact tracing required? [✕](#)

Viewing right: Common

Syphilis Clinical Items

- Syphilis; Treated; male
- Syphilis; Untreated; male
- Syphilis; Treated; female
- Syphilis; Untreated; female
- Congenital Syphilis
- LA bicillin (syphilis)

*for reporting and recall purposes

*provides clear pathways for diagnosis and management

Results of POCT DYHS

15th April 2021 to 28 February 2023

- Complete 863 POCT
- Serology: 4900

24 cases of previous untreated syphilis

<2 yrs: 15 cases (included 7 pregnant cases)

>2 yrs: 8 cases

Unspecified: 1 case (pt consented to testing, but declined formal bloods)

= 2.8% diagnosis rate

*all cases have been rendered non-infectious

28 cases of previous treated elsewhere (not documented/disclosed/forgotten)



**DERBARL
YERRIGAN**
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