

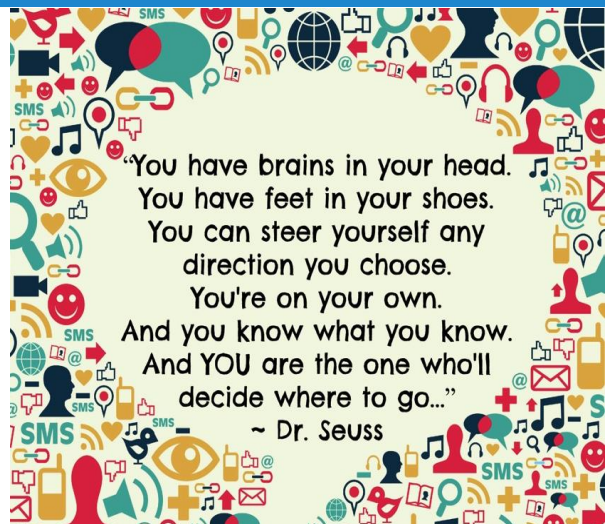
Dr Sajni Gudka, Faculty of Health and Medicine, University of Western Australia

## Yes they can; but they can't!

Pharmacists are competent at requesting chlamydia pathology tests but health policy guidelines prevent them from doing so.

## Challenges in chlamydia screening

- ▣ Screening sites should be
  - Accessible
  - No appointments
  - Youth friendly
  - Long opening hours
  - Anonymous
  - Skilled health professional



# International and National Evidence

- Systematic literature review on pharmacy based chlamydia screening
  - ▣ Searched 7 databases for quantitative and qualitative studies
  - ▣ Collated themes into a set of 'core requirements' for implementing pharmacy-based chlamydia screening interventions
  - ▣ Thematically analysed health service challenges and implementation barriers

**Gudka S**, Afuwape F, Wong B, Yow X, Anderson C, Clifford R. Chlamydia screening interventions from community pharmacies: A systematic review. *Sexual Health*. 2013;10(3): 229-39.

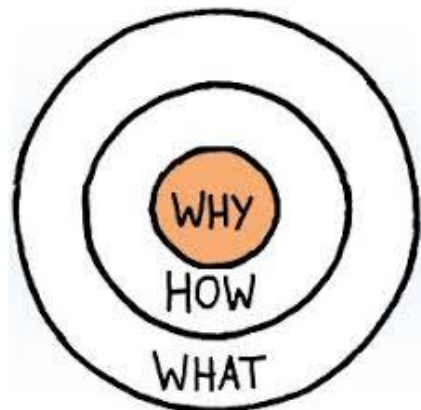
	Van Bergen	Bloomfield	TNS	Brabin	Baraister	Anderson	Watson	Emmerton	Gudka
<b>Core Requirement 1: Patient recruitment approach</b>									
Test offered by pharmacist/staff	✓ OCP		✓	✓ EC	✓			✓ SHC	✓ EC
Test requested by patient		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
<b>Core Requirement 2: Patient eligibility criteria</b>									
Age restrictions	15-29 yrs	NR	16-24 yrs	< 25 yrs	NR	≥16 years	16-24 yrs	≥16 years	≥18 years
Gender									
Female	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Male		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
<b>Core Requirement 3: Laboratory testing procedure</b>									
Type of specimen									
First void urine	✓	✓	✓	✓	NR	✓	✓	✓	
Low vaginal swab					NR		✓		✓
Method of sample return									
By post	✓	✓	✓		NR	✓	✓	✓	
At designated area			✓	✓	NR				✓
<b>Core Requirement 4: Arrangements for notifying test results</b>									
Method of notification									
Telephone	✓	✓	✓	✓	NR	✓	✓	✓	✓
Text message					NR			✓	
Letter			✓		NR	✓	✓		
E-mail					NR	✓			
Notified by									
Pharmacist			✓		NR				
Chlamydia screening officer		✓	✓	✓	NR	✓	✓	✓	✓
GP	✓		✓		NR				
<b>Core Requirement 5: Management of chlamydia positive consumers and their sexual partners</b>									
Patient treated by									
Pharmacist		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
GP/sexual health clinic	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓

## Subset analysis of n=3 Australian studies

- Three pilot studies – WA, ACT and Queensland
- Targeted cohort or opportunistic
- Self testing kits –LVS or FVU
  - ▣ Process was easy, convenient and simple
  - ▣ Post evaluation qualitative surveys –privacy maintained; great accessibility; pharmacists were professional and highly competent; and the process was seamless

## Wicked problem

Community pharmacists CAN .....  
and ARE CAPABLE .....  
of providing direct-to-consumer  
chlamydia tests  
...YET they CAN'T in Australia!



# Health policy challenges



## Results

- ✓ SMS OR centralised number to call

## Treatment

- ✓ back with sexual health clinic OR GP

## Co-infection testing

- ✓ GC/CT tests

# The REAL health policy challenge

## Medicare funding!

- Pharmacists CANNOT request Medicare funded pathology tests!
- Should consumers pay private \$\$ for chlamydia test?



# Research to implementation

Collectively we all work to:

- ❑ de-stigmatise STI's;
- ❑ improve accessibility;
- ❑ reduce system barriers
- ❑ encourage health seeking behaviours



# Research to implementation

BUT now.....we need to collectively lobby for change in Medicare funded regulations of STI testing



...so that allied sexual health providers CAN request direct-to-consumer chlamydia tests.

# Want to lobby with me?

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This unicorn wants you  
to send me emails.



E: [sajni.gudka@uwa.edu.au](mailto:sajni.gudka@uwa.edu.au)