

News

BASHH has published new standards on the management of STIs. The guidance makes recommendations for commissioners and staff in areas such as access, clinical assessment, diagnostics, clinical management, governance and training.

The standards acknowledge the changing commissioning landscape and the increasing pressures on services as well as the availability of new interventions such as HPV vaccination and PrEP.

The Executive Summary leads on the importance of public health. The section on Clinical Management identifies the core role played by patient education, advice on prevention, behaviour change interventions and Partner and Provider Notification in STI control – all Sexual Health Adviser/ Nursing responsibilities. For more information go to: www.bashh.org.

SSHA Annual Conference 2019

Date: Saturday 21st September 9.30 — 4.30
Venue: Jack Jones House, 2 Churchill Way, Liverpool, L3 8EF

Topics to include: Resistant GC
Lustrum update
Mycoplasma Genitalium
Complex codes update
Tendering
Writing an abstract
Vicarious Trauma
Resilience in Sexual Health Advising

Call for Papers: would you like to present at SSHA Conference? Email: martin.murchie@nhs.net

Cost: SSHA/Unite Member £75 Non Member £95

For further information go to: www.ssha.info

Good Practice: Safeguarding

Ceri Evans, Senior Health Adviser, Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

BASHH Guidelines (www.bashh.org) recommend clinics assess all patients for safeguarding. Our proforma asks:

- Has anyone you are close to (such as family members or sexual partners) ever made you feel afraid or physically hurt you?
- Has anyone ever made you do something sexual you did not want to?

We also check if the patient has ever had a Social or Key Worker and elicit specific information such as the reason for referral and contact details.

Abuse can be current or historical. In either case, it may also be the first time the patient has disclosed what has happened. It's important to offer support and referral but also to check whether the patient or others are currently at risk – if so, the clinic may need to contact Social Services or even the Police. A practitioner should first seek the patient's consent. But if consent is withheld, a referral can proceed if the Safeguarding Lead feels it is in the interests of patient or others' safety.



We always ask safeguarding questions at each visit, partly because the patient's circumstances may have changed - but also because a patient may answer more truthfully when asked a second or third time, especially by a practitioner with whom they have developed a rapport.

All staff receive thorough training in safeguarding and everyone is aware of the relevant local referral pathways. I would also recommend a clinic database with all the local and national support services patients can access. We also hold a monthly MDT Safetynet meeting where we bring cases for advice and discussion. Finally, cases can be complex and distressing - so we provide clinical supervision to support all staff involved in safeguarding.

Keep Informed with SSHA

Sign up for our e-bulletin at: www.ssha.info for the latest news in Sexual Health



SSHA Organising Professional Committee (OPC)

Martin Murchie is stepping down as SSHA President this year. The OPC would like to thank him for his hard work and support at what has been a difficult time for Sexual Health Advising. Martin will continue as a Regional Representative for Scotland.

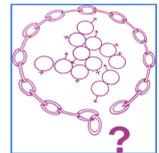
Do you work in Yorkshire or Northumberland? Or the East Midlands/ East Anglia? The SSHA regional representative posts for the North East and East Midlands are currently vacant. The role involves attending a quarterly meeting and keeping in touch with local membership. All your travel expenses are paid and time is given by your employer - and your work will benefit your clinic. For details email: martin.murchie@nhs.net

For advice or support on national standards and good practice in Sexual Health Advising, contact your regional rep at: www.ssha.info.



The Story of Sexual Health Advising in the UK

Dr Hilary Piercy, Principal Lecturer, Department of Nursing and Midwifery, Sheffield Hallam University



I am a nurse academic and my specialist area is Sexual Health and HIV. I have begun a project that tells the story of health advising in the UK. It traces the role from its origins and explores how it has developed over time in response to the changing needs and priorities around the treatment and prevention of sexually transmitted infections.

I am using two primary data sources. Firstly, documentary materials, and secondly narrative accounts.

I need your help. I want to capture differences in how the role has developed and operated across the country. Do you have materials (particularly local or service level) that you think might be useful to help me capture that diversity and variability? Would you be willing to share your personal reminiscences and reflections with me in a 1 - 1 interview? If so, please email me at:

h.piercy@shu.ac.uk



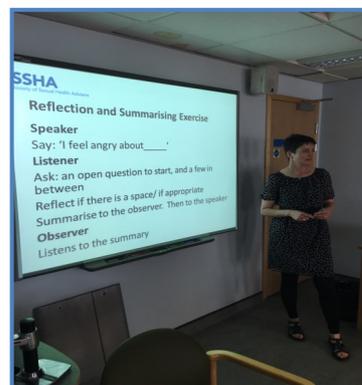
CPD: Motivational Interviewing (MI) and Partner Notification (PN) Study Days

SSHA is planning 2 sets of study days.

Talk Change-Change Talk (on 28th and 29th June) comprises 2 days on Motivational Interviewing for practitioners in Sexual Health. Day 1 covers advanced communication skills and day 2 explores using MI to support behaviour change in Sexual Health.

Introduction to Partner Notification (to be held in the autumn) covers rationale and process, skills, audit, ethical guidance and innovation in PN.

The study days will prepare participants for the BASHH SSHA competencies in MI and PN.



Both study days will be held at:

The Unite Building, 128 Theobalds Rd, London, WC1X 8TN

For more information go to: www.ssha.info



As a SSHA member you can receive the following benefits:

- Contingent Medical Malpractice Liability Insurance - cover for both Sexual and Re-
productive Health Nursing & Sexual Health Advising roles
- Reduced cost at SSHA Annual Conference
- Reduced cost of Continuing Professional Development through SSHA Study Days
- Support via your Regional Representative
- Trade Union Membership

To join SSHA go to: www.ssha.info/about/join-ssha/