

Dear Customer,

As of January 01, 2016 new legal regulations regarding sex service providers have entered into force:

Medical examination intervals have been extended to six weeks.

Within the statutory examinations of persons rendering sex services (BGBl. 198/2015; BGBl. 728/1993 idgF) for absence of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and HIV infection, the following examinations must be carried out:

1. **Prior to starting business:**
 - Blood test for syphilis and HIV (or hepatitis B),
 - Smear test for gonococcus (bacteria, responsible for sexually transmitted gonorrhoea /the clap/) and chlamydia (bacteria, responsible for the so called chlamydia infection).
2. After that the tests for gonococcus and chlamydia infection must be repeated at an interval of **six weeks**.
3. The blood tests for syphilis and HIV must be repeated at an interval of **12 weeks**.

Brief information about the above diseases

SYPHILIS (LUES) is a disease caused by the Treponema pallidum bacteria /spirochete/.

The syphilis is transmitted during sexual intercourse without means of protection even by oral or anal intercourse.

Consistent and correct use of condoms can protect from infection.

Diagnosing syphilis infection is done by proving the existence of certain proteins (antibodies) in blood (by a Treponema pallidum particle agglutination assay (TPPA) test for instance).

AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) is a disease caused by the **HI virus** (HIV).

The HIV infection happens when having a sexual intercourse without protective means as well as when one and the same needle is shared by many people in the case of intravenous drug use.

The most reliable way of protection from HIV infection is the **consistent and correct use of condoms**.

Diagnosing HIV infection is done by means of a blood test.

HEPATITIS B is inflammation of the liver caused by the Hepatitis B virus (HBV).

The most typical way of transmitting Hepatitis B among the adult population is the sexual intercourse with no protective means.

Immunisation can protect against infection (basic immunisation comprises three partial immunisations whereby the re-immunisation is carried out after checking the concentration of the developed antibodies in the blood).

HBV infection can be established with a blood test.

GONORRHOEA (the clap) is a disease caused by bacteria called *Neisseriae gonorrhoeae* (gonococcus).

The gonorrhoea is almost always transmitted by sexual intercourse with no protective means.

Consistent and correct use of condoms protects from infection.

The infection of persons with no symptoms can be established by a test of throat, urethra or vagina, or anus swab culture (the so called PCR test). If there are symptoms of the disease the bacteria can be established directly from the smear test.

Chlamydia infection of genital organs is caused by bacteria called *Chlamydiae trachomatis*.

Genital Chlamydia infection is transmitted during sexual intercourse with no protective means.

Consistent and correct use of condoms protects from infection.

Genital Chlamydia infection can be established with a smear test of the urethra or vagina.

IMPORTANT

In the case of complaints that can be due to a sexually transmitted infection you should get a medical examination immediately, regardless of when your last medical check-up was and what the statutory examinations interval is, in order to be diagnosed timely and start treatment if necessary.

Regular medical check-ups for absence of SMDs and HIV infection do not replace the prophylactic examinations for early detection of cervical or breast cancer. A specialist gynaecologist and obstetrician will advise you about prevention and contraception too.

Zur Verfügung gestellt vom Referat für sexuelle Gesundheit und Prostitution, Gesundheitsdienst der Stadt Wien im Jänner 2016.

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