

# To develop and pilot a best practice community pharmacy chlamydia screening model

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Women accessing Emergency Contraception (EC) were targeted for pharmacy-based chlamydia screening. The Emergency Contraception Mediated Pharmacy Access of Chlamydia Testing (ECOMPACT) study protocol was developed from findings from the literature and stakeholder consensus.

20 pharmacies in Perth participated in a 6-month feasibility study.

## Patient Outcomes

From 769 EC consultations, the pharmacists successfully recruited 596 consumers (78% recruitment rate) and 247 (41%) accepted to participate in the study. The main reason for not wanting to participate was that they were married or in a stable relationship.

Using the Eligibility Assessment Checklist, pharmacists identified 33 consumers (13%) that had symptoms suggestive of sexually transmitted infections. They were immediately referred for a full sexual health check.

The remaining 116 asymptomatic and eligible women were given information (health promotion) on chlamydia screening and an ECOMPACT Testing Kit (diagnostic and long-term prevention). 46 (28%) consumers tested themselves for chlamydia, with negative results.

Consumers described the key strengths of ECOMPACT as being anonymous, highly convenient and easy to use, but indicated that there should be more options for returning the sample e.g. postal returns.

## Pharmacist Achievements

The pharmacists recruited 78% of their target population and they obtained further consent from 90% of the eligible consumers for a follow-up telephone survey.

The pharmacists fully supported and recognised the importance of the study. They believed that ECOMPACT should be made available from every pharmacy, but stated that there should be appropriate reimbursement.

## Success of the ECOMPACT Protocol

Pharmacists successfully requested 166 pathology tests, without the need for a Medicare Provider Number. Evaluation shows that the process was seamless between pharmacy, pathology laboratory, Sexual Health Service at Fremantle Hospital and the consumer.

The study established that the EC consumer target group is at high risk of chlamydia and that pharmacy-based chlamydia screening is highly feasible in Australia.



## KEY FINDINGS