Hepatitis

* The most common type of viral hepatitis in the UK that is sexually transmitted is hepatitis B
* Most hepatitis C in the UK is transmitted by the sharing of equipment for intravenous drug use
* Some types of hepatitis can pass without affecting the liver, but others can become more chronic and last for many years, or cause cirrhosis (scarring of the liver)
* There can be no symptoms, but initial symptoms can be similar to the flu such as temperature, muscle and joint pain and feeling sick
* Different types of hepatitis can be carried in the blood and other bodily fluids such as faeces, saliva, semen and vaginal fluids, so they can be transmitted through unprotected vaginal, anal or oral sex
* Hepatitis can be diagnosed by blood test, which can also include a test of your liver function
* Antiviral medications can be prescribed to manage symptoms, in cases of chronic hepatitis C this may lead to a cure but not always

## Thrush

## Thrush is a yeast infection that is caused by a fungus that lives naturally in the body. It’s not a sexually transmitted infection, but it can be passed on during sex.

* Most men won’t get thrush, but it’s estimated that three out of four women will develop it at some point in their lives. It is a very common cause of unusual vaginal discharge.
* Thrush symptoms can be caused by a number of triggers, for example, antibiotics, pregnancy, using products that cause irritation to the vagina such as highly perfumed bubble bath or vaginal deodorant.

Trichomoniasis

* is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) caused by a tiny parasite called Trichomonas vaginalis, or TV, which infects the vagina and the urethra in both men and women
* 50% of men and women don’t experience symptoms
* If symptoms do appear, soreness, swelling and itchiness is common in the vagina and head of the penis.
* Women can experience a fishy-smelling discharge that may be yellow-green, thick, thin or frothy.
* Men can also experience pain during ejaculation or urination and thin white discharge.
* Trichomoniasis can be passed on through unprotected vaginal sex or sharing sex toys
* Without treatment, the infection can last for months but is easily treated with antibiotics
* It can be serious during pregnancy as it may increase the risk of complications such as premature birth

Syphilis

* It is a bacterial infection
* It can affect anyone who has ever had unprotected sex
* It is passed on through unprotected vaginal, anal or oral sex, sharing sex toys or genital-to-genital contact
* The first symptom is small, painless sore in the genital or anal area called a chancre
* Symptoms can progress to include a non-itchy rash on the palms or soles of the feet, small skin growths, flu-like symptoms, swollen glands, weight loss and patchy hair loss
* If left untreated can cause serious illness and even death
* Diagnosis usually involves an examination, followed by swabs (if there are sores) and a blood test
* If caught early, it can be treated with an antibiotic injection (often penicillin) or other forms of antibiotics

HIV

* Is a virus that damages the body's immune system so it cannot fight off infections
* AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, sometimes referred to as ‘late stage HIV’) is the final stages of HIV infection when the body can no longer fight off life threatening infections. With early diagnosis and treatment most people with HIV will not go on to develop AIDS
* In 2013, around 100,000 people in the UK were living with HIV
* The fact that HIV only affects men who have sex with men is a myth. Over half of those living with HIV are heterosexual
* HIV can be transmitted through blood, semen (including pre-come) and vaginal fluids (less commonly through oral sex or sex toys)

Genital herpes

* Is caused by the virus Herpes Simplex (HSV). There are two types, HSV 1 and HSV 2. Both HSV 1 and HSV 2 can infect the genital and anal area and also the mouth and nose (cold sores).
* It is highly contagious (it easily spreads from person to person)
* It causes very sore, painful blisters on the genitals
* It can affect anyone who is sexually active
* Even after treatment, the virus remains in your body and can cause outbreaks at a later date
* Tests usually involve taking a swab of fluid from a blister
* It can be passed on through any kind of sexual contact
* Even if someone with genital herpes has no symptoms, they can pass it on
* It is treated with antiviral medicines but there is no cure
* There are a number of self-help treatments to ease symptoms

Gonorrhoea

* Is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) caused by a bacteria. It is the second most common bacterial STI in the UK after chlamydia and can lead to infertility in men and women.
* 1 in 10 men and half of women with gonorrhoea experience no signs or symptoms
* Symptoms can include yellow or green discharge, a burning feeling when peeing and pain or tenderness in the tummy
* It can affect anyone who has ever had unprotected sex
* Tests usually involve taking a swab of discharge or giving a urine sample
* If left untreated can affect fertility in men and women
* It is a bacterial infection
* It is passed on through unprotected vaginal, anal or oral sex, sharing sex toys or genital-to-genital contact
* It is treated with antibiotics
* Most of the 25,000 cases reported in the UK in 2012 were in under 25s

Why Practice Safe Sex?

Chlamydia

* The most common sexually transmitted infection (STI) in the UK and is most common in under 25s.
* There are often no signs or symptoms
* It can affect anyone who has ever had unprotected sex
* 1 in 10 young people who are sexually active are thought to have chlamydia
* It is a bacterial infection
* Tests usually involve giving a urine sample or taking a swab
* If left untreated can affect fertility in men and women
* It is passed on through unprotected vaginal, anal or oral sex, sharing sex toys or genital-to-genital contact
* It is treated with antibiotics