



My Annual Checklist For Sexual Health

- For Gay, Bisexual & Bi-Curious Men in Halifax

because HIV prevention and treatment are different now, **we recommend that ...** all sexually active gay / bi / bi-curious men get tested once a year* for HIV and other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs).

recommended STI tests:

- HIV, Syphilis, and Hepatitis B & C (blood test)
- Gonorrhea and Chlamydia (urine test for penis, swab for oral or anal)

* if you have multiple sexual partners we recommend every 3-6 months for HIV and STI tests. For more info go to www.acns.ns.ca/Check-Me-Out.



4 things that all guys (who play with guys) need to know! (AKA - why we recommend these tests...)

- 1** when men have Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), including HIV, they often **do not have any obvious symptoms**. The only way to know is to get tested.
- 2** STIs **WILL NOT go away on their own**. If you've got 'em, you keep 'em (and maybe pass them on to others) until you get treated.
- 3** some STIs (left untreated) can lead to **serious (even life-threatening) health issues ... even when you DON'T have symptoms.**
- 4** having any other STI **increases the risk of HIV transmission (getting OR giving) by up to 400%.**

for more info:
www.acns.ns.ca/Check-Me-Out

Campaign funding provided by Community Health Board Development Funds: the Halifax C.H.B., the Southeastern C.H.B., and the Chebucto West C.H.B.; also by Capital Health (prideHealth, and Public Health).

May 2015

we **ALSO** recommend you consider the following:

vaccinations we recommend

- Hepatitis A and B **
- HPV *** (especially for HIV+ men, and for men under 26)

for men over 21

- testicular self exam (do this for yourself - ask your doctor how)

for men over 40

- talk to your doctor about early detection of prostate cancer

for men over 50

- rectal exam (including anal lesions)
- colorectal cancer screen

for HIV+ men

- rectal exam (including anal lesions)

** only covered by MSI in NS if you identify yourself as a gay, bisexual or other 'man who has sex with men'.

*** the costs of this vaccine are currently not covered by MSI in NS for gay / bi men, but research recommends it.

where to get STI tests:

we encourage you to work with your family doctor (and maybe even educate them) about your ongoing sexual health needs. But, if this doesn't work for you, **you do have other options.**

● you can get STI tests done through the:

- **Halifax Sexual Health Centre** (including anonymous HIV testing). Phone **455-9656, ext. 0** to book an appointment, or visit www.hshc.ca for more info.
- **prideHealth nurse** (for HIV, Hep B/C and Syphilis only) at locations around Halifax (including anonymous HIV testing). Call **220-0643** for an appointment. www.pridehealth.ca
- **Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic at the VG**. Drop in on Mon. or Thu. 4:30-6:30. For info: **473-2272**, or go to www.cdha.nshealth.ca/sexually-transmitted-disease-clinic.

● you can also get STI testing through a **general walk-in clinic** (where you can see a doctor other than your usual family doctor).



Photography provided by: Dana Fraser
Online media sponsorship: Wayves.ca. Print media sponsorship: The Coast.