Q. I want to get tested for STDs. I heard that Planned Parenthood is expensive. Is there any place in Tucson that is cheap? Please let me know!

A. There are many options for STD testing. There are also many different diseases, each requiring a different test. Prices listed below are for Spring 2005 and may change based on eligibility and policies. If you have insurance most fees may be covered. Check your plan.

**UA Campus Health:** Many students like the convenience of an appointment on campus. A doctor or nurse practitioner will discuss sexual history, signs or symptoms, and do an exam, if needed ($10 copay). The most common tests are HIV and chlamydia/gonorrhea. The HIV blood test costs $32.50. Chlamydia/gonorrhea can be done with a urine test ($60) or the less comfortable male urethral swab or female cervical swab ($30). Herpes Simplex Virus Type I or II antibody test is $40. If a patient has first time herpes sores, they can be cultured ($30). Call 621-9202 for an appointment. Call 621-4967 to talk with a health educator. You don’t need insurance to be seen at Campus Health.

**Planned Parenthood of Southern Arizona:** There are three PPSAz clinics available in Tucson. Patients with severely limited financial means can be seen on a “sliding scale” (based on income and ability to pay). Waiting times are longest for this clinic. Full-pay prices are: Office visit= $60, HIV blood test= $50, Chlamydia= $10, Gonorrhea= $15, Herpes antibody test= $85. The clinic closest to the UA is near Tucson Mall at Wetmore and Oracle Roads. Call 884-5562 for appointments.

**Pima County Health Department:** The Teresa Lee STD clinic runs on a first come-first served basis at 322 S. Freeway (near downtown on the eastbound I-10 frontage road just south of Congress St.). Visits are $10, which will cover the most common tests (HIV, chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis). Herpes antibody testing is extra at $60. Expect to wait an hour or two. Call 791-7676 for clinic hours.

**Clinics and private offices:** Expect to pay separately for the visit and for each test ordered. Prices vary greatly.