

sextalk.

answers to your questions about sex and relationships

factoid Emergency contraception (“morning after pill”) is 75-89% effective in preventing pregnancy if taken within 3-5 days of unprotected sex.

Q. I have a question on the costs of getting a full STD test screening at Campus Health. I don't have the university insurance-my family and I have Blue Cross/Shield. I have never been tested before because I thought it was too expensive, but I think it's time just so that I am sure I'm on the safe side. Thanks.

A. Most insurance plans will reimburse patients for medically indicated STD testing when ordered by a clinician. You can be tested at Campus Health (CHS) and then request a bill to submit to Blue Cross/Shield for reimbursement. Check with your insurance carrier prior to your visit to make sure that your particular plan covers STD testing.

The most common STD tests students choose are HIV, chlamydia, and gonorrhea. Prior to testing, a doctor or nurse practitioner will discuss your sexual history, signs or symptoms, and do a physical exam, if indicated.

The typical charges at CHS would be as follows: \$10 “co-pay” per visit; HIV blood test at \$32.50; chlamydia/gonorrhea urine test at \$60; or the less expensive (and slightly less comfortable) male urethral swab or female cervical swab for \$30. If you want to know if you have Herpes Simplex Virus, the antibody test is \$40. If a patient has first time herpes sores, they can be cultured for \$30.

Students who are enrolled in the UA insurance supplement called “Campus Care” pay only a \$10 co-pay at the time of STD testing. This plan is well worth it (at \$60 per semester) since it covers most expenses for services provided within CHS. Campus Care includes all laboratory tests, x-rays, medical procedures and supplies as long as the diagnostic work up is initiated at CHS. Call 621-9202 for an appointment.

The Pima County Health Department Teresa Lee STD clinic provides low-cost STD testing and runs on a first come-first served basis. Located at 322 S. Freeway (near downtown on the eastbound I-10 frontage road just south of Congress St). The \$10 charge covers HIV, chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis tests. Herpes antibody testing is extra at \$60. Expect to wait an hour or two. Call 791-7676 for clinic hours.

For more detailed testing info, go to www.health.arizona.edu and search for “STD testing”.

Have a question? Send it to sextalk@email.arizona.edu

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