How much does it cost to get tested for an STD and will my parents see the bill? Is it a blood or urine test?

A. If you are 18 or older, the Campus Health Service will not release any medical information without your written permission. That means your privacy is protected and your medical records are confidential. A question we often hear is, “How do the charges show up on my bursar’s account?” Help us get the word out on this one: All services at Campus Health, whether they are for a flu shot, a sprained ankle, birth control pills, or sexually transmitted disease (STD) testing, will show up on your bursar’s account as a general “Student Health Charge.”

Campus Health strives to keep your health costs low, whether you have health insurance or not. To see a provider, you’ll pay an office co-pay of $20. Should you require STD lab tests, your costs from there may be covered if you have insurance (Campus Health is a participating provider with most United Healthcare, Cigna, and Aetna plans) or the $100 per semester Campus Care supplement, which covers all laboratory tests, x-rays, medical procedures, and supplies after your initial co-pay.

Even if you don’t have health insurance or Campus Care, you can still access the services here through our competitive fee-for-service rates. For STD screening, these include the following: Chlamydia ($31), gonorrhea ($31), herpes ($44), HIV ($23), and syphilis ($21).* All of the charges can either be paid for by cash or credit card on the spot, or billed to your bursar’s account to be paid later.

How are the tests performed? Chlamydia and gonorrhea are usually urine tests, HIV and Syphilis are blood tests, and herpes can be diagnosed through a viral culture, by swabbing the infected area if sores are present. If you think you may have an STD or something doesn’t seem right, get tested so you can get treated, if necessary. Even if you don’t have visible signs or symptoms, getting tested is a good idea since many STDs are asymptomatic.

For additional reliable information on STDs, how to prevent them and lots more SexTalk columns like this one, visit us at www.health.arizona.edu.

* Costs based on 2011-2012 academic year and subject to change.