

sextalk.

answers to your questions about sex and relationships

factoid 90% of UA students who have used Campus Health Service believe it is a convenient place to get health care services. (2006 Online Health and Wellness Survey, n=652)

Q. My boyfriend and I would like to get tested for STDs, but neither of us has insurance through UA. Can we still get tested at Campus Health? Will that come through on our insurance, or will the charges be protected? Where else could we go to get tested and how much do the tests cost?

A. Taking the initiative to get tested together is a great first step toward protecting yourself and each other. Campus Health Service offers confidential and convenient STD testing right here on campus. UA students do not require insurance to be seen at Campus Health, provided they are enrolled in at least 1 credit hour, and costs are generally less than what you would pay in the community.

If you already have insurance through another carrier, you can submit your Campus Health bill for reimbursement, since clinician-ordered STD tests should be covered. For confidentiality, all Campus Health bills you receive only display "Campus Health Charges," without mention of the nature of the visit.

Since there is no single comprehensive STD test, a provider can help you determine which test or tests will be appropriate. Typically, this includes a discussion of any signs or symptoms you may be experiencing, a review of your sexual history, and a brief physical exam, if needed.

Even without having any signs or symptoms, getting tested is a good idea. Here are some potential costs after the \$10 co-pay: chlamydia/gonorrhea urine test, \$60; slightly less comfortable chlamydia/gonorrhea male urethral swab or female cervical swab, \$30; HIV blood test, \$32.50; antibody test for the Herpes Simplex Virus, \$40; culturing herpes sores for a first-time outbreak, \$30; knowing your and your partner's STD status – priceless.

To schedule an appointment at Campus Health, call 621-9202. Another option for low-cost STD testing is the Pima County Health Department Theresa Lee Health Center, 791-7676. For more detailed information on this subject, 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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