



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
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DEPARTMENT  
OF PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

# The Love Bug Survey 3.1

**Investigating Pharmacy-Based Chlamydia Testing in Community Pharmacists  
in Australia and Switzerland**

**Master`s Thesis**

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## Abstract

**Background:** *Chlamydia trachomatis* is the most frequent sexually transmitted bacterial infection in women and men worldwide and surveillance data show rising trends. Chlamydia infections rarely cause symptoms. If untreated, they may lead to serious long-term conditions, including infertility. Therefore, to improve testing rates and reduce burden of the disease, people should be able to access chlamydia testing in an easy and friendly manner. Community pharmacies have already been shown to be feasible locations. However, little is known about the role of community pharmacists themselves as providers of chlamydia testing at the pharmacy. Of importance are their willingness to provide testing, their specific chlamydia knowledge as well as their perceived facilitators and barriers to pharmacy-based chlamydia testing.

**Objective:** The key objective of the survey was to investigate if Australian and Swiss community pharmacists may improve access to chlamydia testing. Therefore, pharmacists` willingness to provide pharmacy-based chlamydia testing, their chlamydia knowledge and perceived facilitators and barriers were determined, and further how each of these variables were associated with the willingness to provide pharmacy-based chlamydia testing was also identified.

**Methods:** One survey in English and one in German were created for Australian and Swiss community pharmacists and disseminated online. The surveys contained questions about demographic characteristics, willingness to provide pharmacy-based chlamydia testing, chlamydia knowledge as well as perceived facilitators and barriers.

**Results:** The majority of the 162 surveyed Australian (95.7 %) and 223 surveyed Swiss (80.3 %) community pharmacists were willing to provide pharmacy-based chlamydia testing. Australian pharmacists had a significantly higher mean knowledge score of 7.06 points ( $\pm 1.11$ ) than Swiss pharmacists who scored 6.15 points ( $\pm 1.42$ ). The strongest facilitators in Australian community pharmacists were "In favour of introducing new strategies for treating STI" (odds ratio: OR = 32.75, 95 % CI (3.77, 284.34)) and "Chlamydia screening is important" (OR = 28.31, 95 % CI (4.7, 170.65)). The strongest facilitators in Switzerland were "Keen to expand my service" (OR = 9.05, 95 % CI (4.36, 18.82)) and "Contribute to sexual health services" (OR = 8.36, 95 % CI (4.04, 17.27)). The strongest barriers in both countries were "The process seems complicated" (OR = 8.46, 95 % CI (1.39, 51.5) v OR = 9.61, 95 % CI (3.32, 27.8)) and "Should be conducted by the general practitioner" (OR = 6.52, 95 % CI (1.34, 31.76) v OR = 10.57, 95 % CI (4.49, 24.89)).

**Conclusion:** Community pharmacists in Australia and Switzerland may improve access to chlamydia testing, as the majority of the surveyed pharmacists in both countries were willing to provide pharmacy-based chlamydia testing and had high chlamydia knowledge.