

Confidentiality

We understand the importance of confidentiality. We adhere to trust policy and professional codes of conduct.

We will not disclose your HIV status in referrals, contacts with other services, or reports unless we have your consent beforehand, except where we are concerned about your safety or the safety of others.

Get the best from your NHS

Our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) can help patients, families and carers with questions, comments or concerns about NHS services. If you need advice about our services, facilities or staff, or would like to make a comment, please contact PALS at:

Service Experience Team
Sussex Community NHS Trust
FREEPOST (BR117)
Elm Grove, Brighton BN2 3EW
Telephone: 01273 242292
Email: sc-tr.serviceexperience@nhs.net

Other formats

Please ask any member of the team caring for you if you need this information in large print, Braille, easy read, audio tape, email. Or if you need help with understanding this information or require this in a language that is not English.

Where we are

Brighton & Hove Team
The Old Market
Upper Market Street
Hove BN3 1AS
Tel: 01273 267575

North Team
Fifth Floor
Crawley Hospital
Crawley
West Sussex RH11 7DH
Tel: 01293 600300 ext 4054

South Team
First Floor
Zachary Merton Hospital
Glenville Road
Rustington
Littlehampton BN16 2EB
Tel: 01903 858044

Welcome to the Community HIV Specialist Service

Community HIV Specialist Service

Could this be you?

You're having bloods taken regularly and discussing the results with your consultant.

You may have just come out of hospital. Or are you going through a bad patch.

Perhaps you're newly diagnosed. Maybe you have some specific worries that aren't directly to do with HIV.

Do you sometimes feel you need a little more support?

The Community HIV Specialist Service provides free, confidential advice and support to people who are HIV positive.

Our service has three nurse-led teams, covering Brighton & Hove and West Sussex. Each team offers HIV clinical nurse specialists, a mental health nurse, access to a health trainer and other support workers.

How the service works

We aim to contact anyone referred to our service within five working days.

We work with you to explore your health needs and consider other factors such as the needs of your family, child, partner and carers. We then agree with you an appropriate care plan. Following the referral and with your consent we communicate any ongoing issues back to the referrer.

What we can offer

- **Nursing support**, with home visits and health checks.
- **Case management** of complex health issues.
- **Advice** on making decisions about starting, changing or stopping your antiretroviral therapy.
- **Information** to help you, carers and partners make choices about your healthcare.
- Advice to help **control your symptoms**, for example pain, vomiting, diarrhoea.
- Sexual health **education** and promotion.
- **Discharge planning** from hospital.
- **Assisting you**, if you wish, to share your status with others.
- Help to understand **medical terms**.

We can also help put you in touch with a psychiatrist, psychologist, social care support, as well as other organisations.

All consultations and visits take place by arrangement, usually in your home, clinic or where appropriate in another location.

How can I get in touch

Ask your HIV consultant, GP or other health practitioner to refer you to the team closest to you.

Or phone us (see back page) for further information. We're open Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm, except for public holidays.

Sharing information

So that we can help you, we need to work closely with other organisations (with your consent) on your behalf. We have links to other specialist teams, HIV units and treatment centres.

We believe this approach improves our service to you, and can promote mutual understanding, support and learning.

In an emergency

The Community HIV Specialist Service is not a crisis or an emergency service. However, we always try to provide as much support to clients in need as we can. In some circumstances, it might be more appropriate for you to use your HIV treatment centre, your general practitioners (GP) surgery, or the Accident & Emergency department.