



**REVIEW AND UPDATING
OF
STANDARDS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED
INFECTIONS (STIs)**

Since April 2013, local authorities have taken on the commissioning of sexual health services as part of their new public health remit. The *Standards for the management of sexually transmitted infections (STIs)* will support them in that role.

The standards have been used widely by service providers and PCT commissioners to specify service requirements, benchmark performance and improve the quality of care delivered by the range of providers managing STIs. They will be equally useful for new Directors of Public Health and their teams in local authorities responsible for commissioning comprehensive sexual health services.

Launched in 2010, the standards are being reviewed and updated by BASHH and MEDFASH during 2013. We plan to do this in partnership with the professional bodies which endorsed the first edition.

Meanwhile, although the references to NHS structure and policy in the first edition may be out of date, we are confident that the standards themselves are still valid. They bring together the key elements of best practice in STI management applicable to all settings.

We therefore continue to recommend the use of the standards in this edition to shape and commission services in 2013. The effective management of STIs as specified in the standards will improve health outcomes for individuals. Crucially for new public health commissioners, it will also play a key role in protecting the broader public health and ensuring effective use of resources by local authorities and the NHS.

If you have any suggestions for amendments as we embark on updating the standards during 2013, please send them before 14 June 2013 to Dr Alan Tang, Secretary, BASHH Clinical Standards Unit (alan.tang@royalberkshire.nhs.uk) or to MEDFASH (enquiries@medfash.bma.org.uk).

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