GUMCAD and CTAD data submission guidance for STI self-sampling services

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Document control

Current version	To provide guidance to services providing self-sampling tests for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) on the data flow and submission requirements for GUMCAD and CTAD.		
Current status	FINAL		
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Issued to	**Person(s) issued to**		**Date issued**
	Publicly available		10/04/2019

Glossary

CTAD	Chlamydia Surveillance System
NCSP	National Chlamydia Screening Programme
Non-Specialist	Non-Specialist level 1 and 2 sexual health service (including SRH, young persons, enhanced GPs and other sexual health services)
ODS	Organisation Data Service
PHE	Public Health England
PN	Partner Notification
SHS	Sexual Health Services
SNOMED CT	Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine - Clinical Terms
Specialist	Specialist level 3 sexual health service (including GUM & integrated GUM/SRH services)
SHHAPT	Sexual Health and HIV Activity Property Types - STI surveillance codes (introduced in 2011)
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
SRHAD	Sexual and Reproductive Health Activity Dataset
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
ToP	Termination of Pregnancy
WSW	Women who have Sex with Women

Introduction

This guidance provides details on the data flow and GUMCAD/CTAD submission requirements for services providing self-sampling tests for sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Self-sampling entails individuals collecting their own urine, vaginal/rectal swab, or blood sample using a provided kit and posting the sample to a laboratory for testing. This guidance does not cover self-testing, which enables individuals to perform a point-of-care STI test themselves with a self-testing kit, and for which there is currently no systematic result reporting mechanism for surveillance purposes.

1. Types of self-sampling services

Self-sampling can be offered as an integral part of a sexual health service(SHS) or as a standalone, separate online service (dedicated eSHS). From any particular service, self-sampling may be available for chlamydia only, as part of the National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP), or for full STI screens including chlamydia, gonorrhoea, syphilis, hepatitis A and B and HIV tests.

There are 4 types of online self-sampling services, in terms of the commissioning and data flow, as defined below and in Figure 1:

1. **Satellite eSHS**: a dedicated physical SHS that is providing Level 2 or Level 3 STI care via standard face-to-face consultations *and* Level 2 STI care via online consultations. Satellite eSHS should not be registered to report GUMCAD – Satellite eSHS data should be included in the submission of, and reported by, the managing dedicated physical clinic.
2. **Dedicated eSHS**: an online service that is providing Level 2 STI care via online consultations only and is (generally) accessible by a specific patient residence only. Each dedicated eSHS should be registered to report GUMCAD (eg the Sexual Health London e-service). A dedicated eSHS and their specified patient residence would be defined by the associated commissioner/commissioning group.
3. **Standalone online chlamydia testing service**: online chlamydia testing only is commissioned independent of any physical service, typically affiliated with the National Chlamydia Screening Programme. There is no affiliated physical service.
4. **Standalone online HIV testing service**: online HIV testing only is commissioned independent of any physical service.
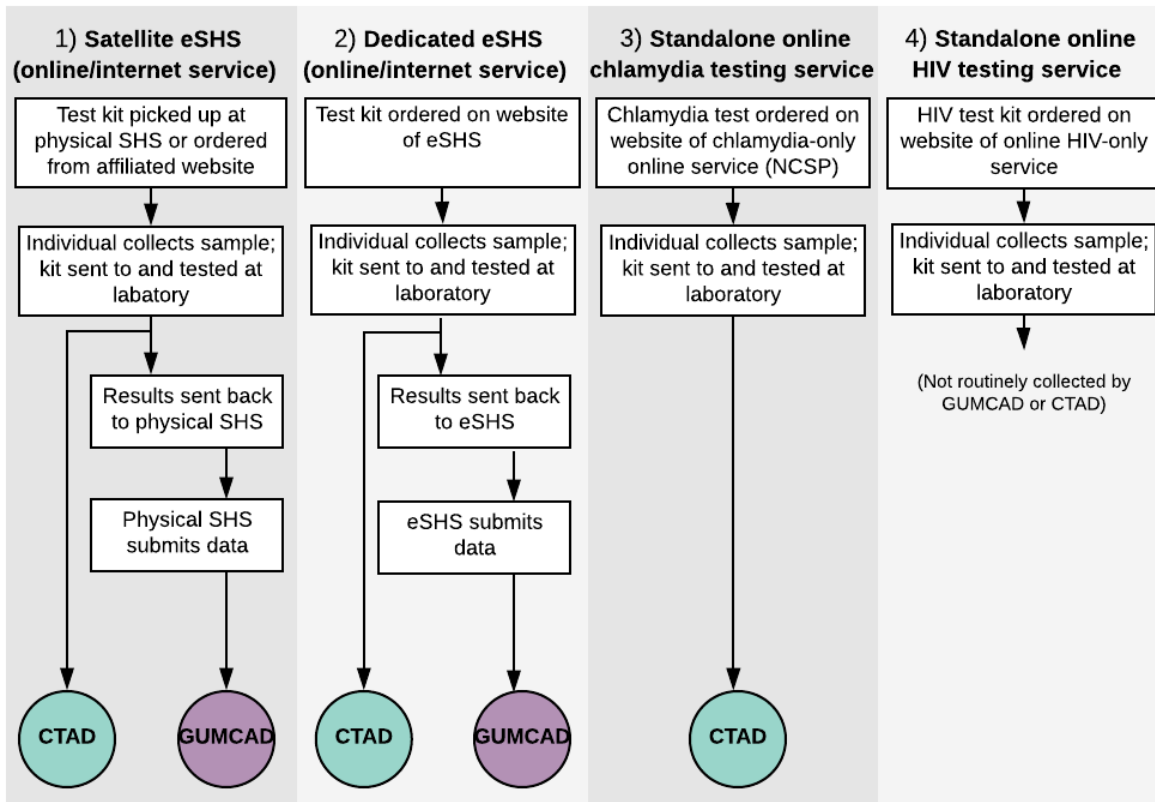
Generally, any general STI testing activity should be reported to both CTAD and GUMCAD data (Figure 1, streams 1 and 2), while online chlamydia testing activity under the NCSP only needs to be reported to CTAD (Figure 1, stream 3). There is no mandatory requirement for HIV-only self-sampling services to report GUMCAD or CTAD data, so these are not discussed in detail in this guidance.

Relevant data from GUMCAD and CTAD are combined to create a comprehensive dataset of all chlamydia tests and diagnoses in England. Submitted data should therefore be accurately coded to prevent double counting in the final dataset. More information on accurate coding to prevent double counting is available on the Chlamydia guidance on reporting in CTAD and GUMCAD guidance document.

2. Data Flow

Figure 1 demonstrates in more detail the various streams of STI self-sampling test data, as well as the respective reporting requirements.

Figure 1: Flow diagram of possible streams for STI self-sampling services

2.1 Satellite eSHS

Testing and obtaining results

   i.   Patient requests a kit in person from a physical SHS or online from affiliated website (satellite eSHS).

  ii.   Patient collects and returns samples to the SHS (or the SHS's designated laboratory).

 iii.   The laboratory tests the samples and the SHS informs the patient of their test results.

Reporting to surveillance datasets

GUMCAD: The physical SHS reports the test/diagnosis activity to GUMCAD under their Clinic ID [Organisation Data Service (ODS) code] and designated GUMCAD clinic type (Table 1). The current SHHAPT code 'T8' differentiates self-sampling tests from point-of-care tests; NHS Digital will provide an equivalent SNOMED code (Table 2).

CTAD: The physical SHS's laboratory reports the test/diagnosis activity to CTAD under the SHS's venue code (ODS code) and designated CTAD Testing Service Type (Table 1).

Important note on ODS code: The same ODS code and service type must be reported in GUMCAD and CTAD. If the satellite eSHS is associated with multiple physical SHSs within an organisation, consider submitting the data with the ODS code of the largest physical SHS. Otherwise this may need to be considered a dedicated eSHS for reporting purposes, and a new ODS code should be sought. Please contact to the GUMCAD/CTAD teams to clarify.

2.2 Dedicated eSHS

Testing and obtaining results

i.   Patient orders a self-sampling kit from an eSHS's website. The kit is mailed to a designated address.
ii. Patient collects and returns samples to the eSHS.
iii. The eSHS informs the patient of their test result.

Reporting data

GUMCAD: The dedicated eSHS reports the test/diagnosis activity to GUMCAD under their Clinic ID (ODS code) and designated online service type (Table 1).

CTAD: The dedicated eSHS's laboratory reports the test/diagnosis activity to CTAD under the dedicated eSHS's venue code (ODS code) and designated online testing service type (Table 1). In some cases, for instance for the Sexual Health London e-service, an NCSP code should be added to label the e-service data to distinguish it from other online test data.

Important note on ODS code: The same ODS code and service type must be reported in GUMCAD and CTAD. Standalone online testing services should have their own unique ODS code.

2.3 Standalone online chlamydia testing service

Testing and obtaining results

i. Patient orders a self-sampling kit from an online chlamydia testing service's website. The kit is mailed to a designated address.
ii. Patient collects and returns samples to the online chlamydia testing service.
iii. The service informs the patient of their test result.

Reporting to surveillance datasets

GUMCAD: Reporting is not required from services only commissioned to provide chlamydia testing (or dual chlamydia and gonorrhoea testing) for the NCSP.

CTAD: The online chlamydia service's laboratory reports the test/diagnosis activity to CTAD under the service's venue code (ODS code) and designated online testing service type (Table 1).

3. Combining GUMCAD and CTAD data

The final STI surveillance dataset is taken from both GUMCAD and CTAD data, in a way which prevents duplication of tests reported to both surveillance systems.

Self-sampling chlamydia data from online services (Figure 1, streams 2 and 3) as well as non-specialist physical SHSs offering self-sampling (Figure 1, stream 1) is taken from CTAD, as the surveillance system has better coverage of chlamydia testing activity in non-specialist SHSs. Self-sampling data for all other STIs, regardless of service level, and for chlamydia from specialist SHSs offering self-sampling (Figure 1, stream 1) are taken from GUMCAD.

4. Submission requirements

4.1 Organisation Data Service (ODS) code

Each submitting service should have a unique organisation data service (ODS) code[1] to identify their submissions, whether this code is that of the physical SHS or the dedicated eSHS. The allocation of ODS codes is managed by NHS Digital.

It may be necessary to acquire a new ODS code to identify a specific service if:

The online STI testing service is a dedicated eSHS or the affiliation with a clinic/organisation is unclear (eg the service is provided by an organisation which also commissions several clinics).
Or
A single testing service or laboratory carries out different 'arms' of testing that fall under different data flows. For instance, a laboratory may be conducting the online testing for a satellite eSHS (data flow 1), whereby testing activity and results will be submitted to GUMCAD by the SHS. However, the same laboratory may also conduct online testing fo a dedicated eSHS (data flow 2) which will require its own ODS code.

Correct use of ODS codes will be particularly important when services submit to both GUMCAD and CTAD, to prevent double counting. Please contact the GUMCAD and CTAD teams to clarify.

4.2 Obtaining an ODS code

A new ODS code to identify a dedicated eSHS of an existing clinic/organisation will require services to:

- download an Organisation Contact (OC1) form from https://digital.nhs.uk/services/organisation-data-service/services-provided-by-the-organisation-data-service/download-our-forms
- complete the form with name and address details of the service
- email the completed form to exeter.helpdesk@nhs.net, with the subject heading "GUMCAD online"

The ODS helpdesk can be reached at 0300 3034 034.

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[1] ODS codes used for GUMCAD and CTAD submissions will be the same as those used for SHRAD

4.3 Service type code

The same ODS code and service type must be reported in GUMCAD and CTAD, if submitting to both. Table 1 shows the full list of service types.

Table 1. Testing service type codes

Service	GUMCAD clinic type¥	CTAD testing service type
Dedicated clinic	01 - Specialist (Level 3*) 01 - Integrated Specialist STI & SRH services (GUM & SRH)	01 - GUM *
	02 - Integrated Non-specialist STI SRH services (GUM & SRH) 02 - SRH (Level 2)	02 - SRH
	04 - Enhanced GP (Level 2)	03 – GP
	05 - Prison (Level 2)	XX – Other
	10 - Other (Level 2)	
	11 - Other (Level 1)	
Dedicated eSHS	03 - Online (Level 2)	06 - Online / Internet
Premises offering Chlamydia-only service	N/A	02 - SRH 03 – GP 04 – Pharmacy 05 - Termination of Pregnancy (ToP) XX - Other
Online Chlamydia-only service	N/A	06 - Online / Internet

¥Clinic Type is a new variable in the revised guidance document, due to be uploaded in March 2019).

*Including Integrated GUM & SRH services – please refer to Public Health England and Department of Health and Social Care/Healthy Behaviours/10800, Integrated Sexual Health Services: A suggested national service specification, August 2018

4.4 GUMCAD coding

GUMCAD data should be reported following the GUMCAD technical and clinical guidance documents.

GUMCAD test and diagnosis activity should be reported using SHHAPT coding. The SHHAPT codes relevant to online self-sampling are outlined in Table 2.

Table 2: GUMCAD SHHAPT coding for self-sampling STI tests and diagnoses

SHHAPT code category	SNOMED CODE	SHHAPT code	Description
Always required			
Test code(s)	442487003	T1	Chlamydia test
		T2	Chlamydia & gonorrhoea tests
		T3	Chlamydia, gonorrhoea & syphilis tests
		T4	Chlamydia, gonorrhoea, syphilis & HIV tests
		T6	Hepatitis A/B/C tests
		T7	Syphilis & HIV tests
	171121004	P1A	HIV test
Self-sampling code		T8	Self-sampling
Required when an individual is diagnosed			
Diagnosis code	240589008	C4	Chlamydia
	15628003	B	Gonorrhoea
Additional codes, used as appropriate when an individual is diagnosed			
PN code		PN	Partner notification initiated
Referral code		REF2	Referral to GUM services (Level 3)

A **test code** and **self-sampling code** (SHHPT- T8; SNOMED- TBC) is required for each consultation to reflect the tests carried out. This will reflect the samples the patient returns to the laboratory for testing and not the tests included in the kit the patient originally ordered. For example, if a patient orders a T4 kit and returns a sample for chlamydia and gonorrhoea testing but does not return a blood sample for syphilis and HIV testing, the test kit should be coded as T2 (not T4).

Diagnosis codes must also be added if a patient tests positive for chlamydia or gonorrhoea.

Reactive results for syphilis, HIV, and Hepatitis should be coded as "Initial reactive" using the Diagnosis_Confirmed variable, instead of "Confirmed" or "Confirmed elsewhere"; patients with reactive results should be referred to a physical service for confirmatory testing.

Further codes may also be required if the online service initiates partner notification and refers patients to specialist Level 3 GUM services.

4.5 CTAD coding

CTAD data should be reported following the CTAD dataset specification and technical guidance. Each lab should report the testing service type and venue code variables based on the type of venue.

The coding of testing service type reported in CTAD should be in line with the service type reported to GUMCAD, as explained in Table 1 of this document.