



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

Syphilis Point of Care Testing Project



Acknowledgement of country

- May I first acknowledge the Wadjuk people of the Noongar nation, the traditional custodians of this land who are resilient in their custodianship
- Let us celebrate their culture today and every day, and note how privileged we are to share this country
- I pay my respects to elders: past, present and emerging

Syphilis point-of-care testing

- The Australian government commenced use of point-of-care tests for syphilis in 2018
- ‘Test to Treat’ model implemented to curb syphilis outbreak in affected Aboriginal populations

Determine Syphilis TP

- Therapeutic Goods Administration approved
- Testing strip
- Antibody reactive test
- Results in 15 minutes

- **Supplements serology, does not replace**

WA Syphilis PoCT Program

- Supplies PoCT Strips
- Provides training and accompanying trainer database
- Quality control framework
- 24 primary sites

Quality Control Framework

- Ensures tests are giving expected results
- Minimises risk of faulty or incorrectly stored testing strips
- Framework is two separate tests
- Quality Control, fortnightly
- External Quality Assurance, quarterly

Objectives

- ↑ Rates of testing for syphilis in Aboriginal communities in outbreak affected regions
- ↓ Numbers of undiagnosed pregnant women and congenital syphilis
- ↓ Time to treatment for cases of infectious syphilis.

Training Information

- Online train-the-trainer model being used
- 2 hour training
- 45 minutes basic operator training

Reporting Requirements

- Data being collected is:
 - Gender
 - Age
 - PoCT only
 - Both tests
 - Number of clients
 - Aboriginality
 - Site
 - Serology only
 - Positive PoCT
- Reporting to be completed quarterly

Roles and Responsibilities

- SHBBVP: Matthew Bacon
 - Administration
 - Ordering and disseminating PoCT
- ICPoCT Flinders University:
 - Manage quality control framework
 - Facilitate 'Advanced Trainer' training
 - Assisting advanced trainers to facilitate 'Basic Operator' training.

Roles and Responsibilities

- Primary Sites
 - Distribute PoCT to secondary sites
 - Complete reporting requirements stipulated
 - Facilitate 'Basic Operator' training
- Secondary Sites
 - Conduct quality control & report results to ICPoCT

Current Status

- 18 sites registered
- Trainings are booked in
- Working through reporting
- Any sites wanting to express interest contact Matthew.Bacon@health.wa.gov.au

Questions?