



Warning as syphilis cases increase

NHS Tees is warning people about the dangers of syphilis following a rise in cases of the devastating disease.

Anyone who has unprotected sex with casual partners or strangers is at high risk of developing syphilis and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs). The condition is especially significant in pregnant women where infection can be passed on to the unborn child leading to miscarriage, still birth or (h)1.4422(s)-.33 13.8 T T(N)1.55sNsNsNsNsNsNsNsNs o“4.3311(n)-4.33o

Issued by the Communication and Engagement Team for the four Primary Care Trusts on Teesside.

For information, photographs and interviews, please contact **Marie Levy**, Press Officer
on **01642 352623** or by e-mail: marie.levy@middlesbroughpct.nhs.uk

Riverside House, 18 High Force Road, Middlesbrough. TS2 1RH

www.tees.nhs.uk





“We’re urging people to contact their GP or their local sexual health clinic for syphilis testing if they are at high risk. For pregnant women it is important to attend for antenatal screening as this can identify syphilis early and allow treatment to be carried out.”

A number of general and targeted campaigns are being carried out to increase syphilis awareness and syphilis screening across the NHS Tees area.

Nationally the highest rates of syphilis are seen in women aged 20 to 24 and men aged 25 to 34. In 2008 there were 3,588 cases diagnosed in sexual health clinics across the UK.

Symptoms of syphilis are not specific and depend on the disease stage. At first it is possible to have no symptoms or to have one or more painless but highly infectious sores at the site of infection.

For more information on syphilis visit www.hpa.org.uk

Ends

NOTE TO EDITORS: For more information please call Press and Public Relations Officer Marie Levy on 01642 352623 or email marie.levy@middlesbroughpct.nhs.uk

Issued by the Communication and Engagement Team for the four Primary Care Trusts on Teesside.

For information, photographs and interviews, please contact **Marie Levy**, Press Officer on **01642 352623** or by e-mail: marie.levy@middlesbroughpct.nhs.uk

Riverside House, 18 High Force Road, Middlesbrough. TS2 1RH

www.tees.nhs.uk

