

## Fact Sheet

# Genital herpes

[womensnewbornhealth.com.au](http://womensnewbornhealth.com.au)

### What are genital warts?

Genital warts are a type of wart that is sexually transmissible. They are an infection, caused by the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), which is also called the wart virus.

### How will you know if you have genital warts?

Warts may appear a couple of weeks after contact with the virus. However, some take months or years to notice. They begin as a small lump and may become 'cauliflower-like'.

#### In men:

- warts can be on the penis, scrotum or anal area.

#### In women:

- warts can be on the vaginal lips, around the anus and sometimes inside the vagina or on the cervix.

### How can you be checked for genital warts?

Genital warts can be detected by close physical examination of the genital skin at a sexual health clinic or by your own doctor.

### How do you get genital warts?

Genital warts are passed on by close skin to skin contact with someone who is infected. This may occur during sex or foreplay.

Many people may have this virus in their genital skin, and not know. Even when there are no warts, the virus can be passed on.

Infection with the wart virus is very common. Most people who have ever had sex will have been in contact with the wart virus.

### What is the treatment for genital warts?

Visible warts can be treated at a sexual health clinic or by your own doctor. There is a risk of warts coming back after treatment and usually a few treatments are needed.

### What if genital warts are not treated?

The warts may grow larger, stay the same or disappear.

### What about partners?

If a couple have been together for a long time it is likely they both share the wart virus, even if the warts can't be seen.

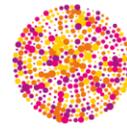
**Telling a partner is not always easy. Sexual health counsellors can advise you on the best way to do this.**

### Important Information

Some types of wart virus do play a role in abnormal Pap smear results. All women should have regular Pap smears.

**The risk of catching the wart virus increases with having more sexual partners**





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**Western Sydney Sexual Health Centre**  
Jeffery House  
162 Marsden Street Parramatta  
02 9843 3124  
Mon, Tues & Fri 0900 am - 0400 pm  
Weds 1000 am - 0400 pm  
Thurs 0400 pm - 0700 pm (appointment only)

**Kelly Close Services**  
Kelly Close Mt Druitt - 02 9881 1206  
Mon 0900 am – 0400 pm  
Weds & Fri 0900 am – 0100 pm

**If you have any questions or worries please phone the clinic and ask to speak to a nurse or a counsellor.**

**We welcome further feedback on this brochure as a way of continually improving our service.**

**Send your feedback to:**  
WSLHD-Get\_Involved@health.nsw.gov.au

