



eC-Card

The why, what and how?

Introduction

Good **sexual health** is important to **physical** and **mental wellbeing**, and is a cornerstone of **public health**. Young people who are exploring and establishing **sexual relationships** must be **supported** to take **responsibility** for their **sexual health**.

To do this, we need an open and honest sexual health culture, in which condom use becomes the norm for people who are sexually active. Condom distribution schemes, such as eC-Card play a key role in helping young people on this journey.

The eC-Card App gives FREE condoms to young people in Essex aged 16-24. The service can be accessed by male or females. It doesn't matter whether service users are having sex, thinking about having sex, or if they are just curious.

This service will allow quick discreet, free access to barrier protection for 16-24 year olds in Essex; people over 25 years are not eligible to access the scheme.

People under 16 who wish to use the App will require a face to face assessment with a trained professional. This can be arranged by contacting the sexual health service intelligence centre.

Staff at the intelligence centre will arrange a face to face assessment after which access to the app can be authorized.

Non smartphone users may be offered membership of the scheme and will be issued with a card to confirm membership and record the number of condoms issued. These users will be provided with a list of approved venues who will accept this method. These venues will report transactions on a weekly basis to the service.

Sexual Health Service Intelligence Centre

ESSEX **sexual health** SERVICE

 0300 003 1212  provide.essexsexualhealthservice@nhs.net

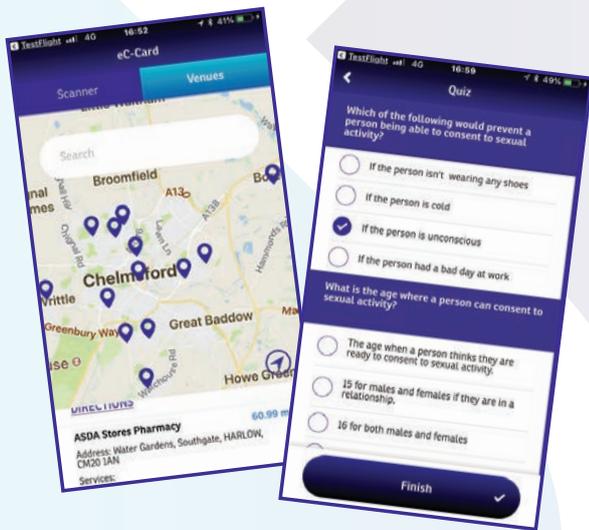
THURROCK **sexual health** SERVICE

 0300 303 9970  provide.thurrocksexualhealthservice@nhs.net

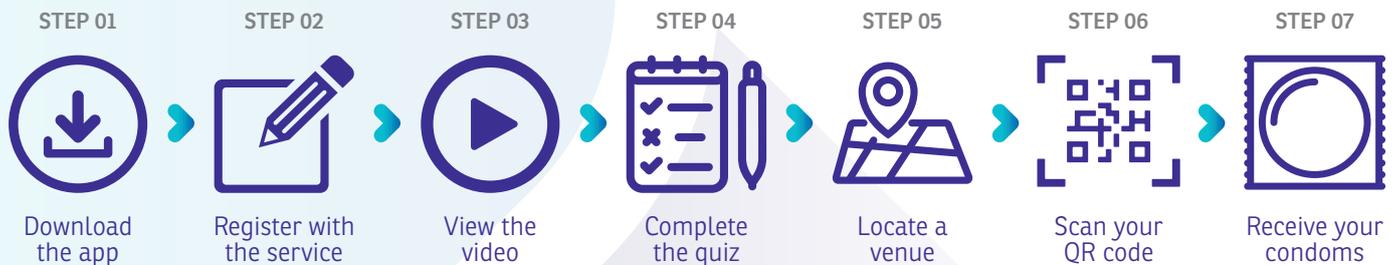


The eC-Card App

The scheme is accessed via an App downloadable from either Google Play or the App Store. Once downloaded users follow a simple seven step process. Young people wishing to use the app are required to review 3 short educational animated videos and then validate their understanding by completing a short quiz covering: Sex, consent and the law, Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and how to use a condom.



Once registered, users can then access details of all participating venues and complete the collection of condoms by attending the chosen venue and scanning a unique QR code issued to each venue. This records details of the transaction at venue location.



Condoms are dispensed in units of ten condoms with two sachets of lubrication (Lube) and one instruction sheet in a sealed paper bag.

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Obtaining supplies

As a **registered venue** you will initially receive enough supplies that will enable you to make up **20 dispensing units** of condoms.

One unit equals:

- 10 x Condoms,
- 2 x Sachets of lube
- 1 x Paper bags
- 1 x Instruction leaflets
- 1 x Sticker

Usage of stock will be monitored and a re-supply triggered when you fall to, or below **10 units**. At this point you will be sent another **20 units** worth of supplies to ensure you have enough stock at all times.

If for some reason this has not happened please contact the service intelligence centre.

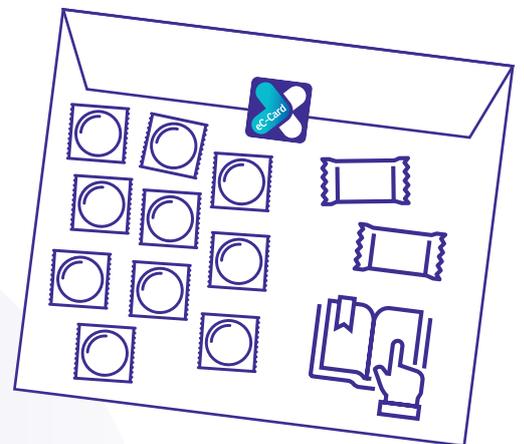
Packing the dispensing bags (one unit)

Each paper bag will need to be packed with 10 condoms, 2 lubes, and the instruction leaflet then sealed with a sticker.

Each registered user is permitted to receive only one bag (unit) per transaction during a seven day period.

The number and frequency of transactions is restricted in the App so that the scanner function on the app is disabled for further transactions until 7 days has past. The service can override this restriction remotely and any users in the position of requiring an additional supply within the 7 day period should be directed to contact the service intelligence centre.

Do not dispense condoms to a user if they are unable to scan the QR code.



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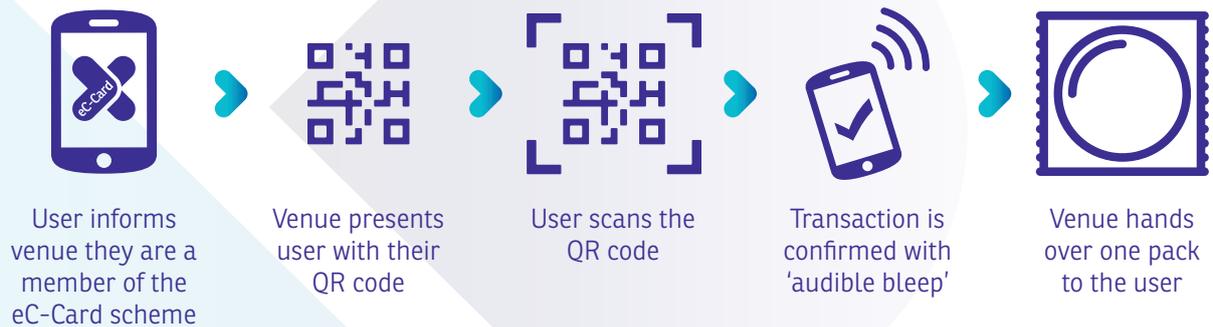
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Transaction

Each venue will be provided with a display sheet containing a unique QR Code that allows you to complete and record the issuing of condoms to users. Transaction steps:



Precautions and warnings

App users are asked to provide their date of birth and home postcode during the registration process. This restricts registration to users to those between 16-24yrs of age and a resident of Essex (excluding Southend).

<Under 16

If there are concerns that the young person may be a risk to themselves or others, including subject to abuse or exploitation follow your local safeguarding process.

>Over 25

If you suspect a user is over 25 years of age, please remind them of the age criteria for the eC-Card card scheme.

If the young person confirms their eligibility and you still have concerns please process the transaction, and report to your manager and sexual health service intelligence centre.

All Pharmacy venues and their staff have a duty of confidentiality to eC-Card users. This confidentiality may only be compromised in the most exceptional situations when the health, safety or welfare of the young person, or others would otherwise be at grave risk. If this is the case, your safeguarding procedures should be triggered and followed.

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Reporting concerns

Report to our Sexual Health Service intelligence centre providing the following details:

- Stating name of distribution point
- Time & Date of transaction
- Details of incident

If the young person confirms their eligibility and you still have concerns please process the transaction and report to your manager and sexual health service intelligence centre.

PLEASE NOTE:

It is the responsibility of the distributing venue to ensure staff are confident and competent to distribute condoms via the eC-Card scheme as per process. Compliance with mandatory safeguarding training and updates will be confirmed and reviewed as part of the criteria for acceptance as a venue.

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Essex Sexual Health Service
is commissioned by:



Essex County Council

Thurrock Sexual Health Service
is commissioned by:

