

News Release

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SUPERDRUG TO OFFER HIGH STREET HIV TESTING

- new service offering walk-in HIV tests offered by registered nurses -

This spring Superdrug announces its plans to offer a drop-in HIV testing service in six stores. The service, which is being run in the store's Nurse Clinics run by registered nurses, will be available in stores in Brighton, Edinburgh, Croydon,, Cardiff, Newcastle and Manchester launching this week.

This is the first time a high street retailer has offered walk in HIV tests. At present those worried about their HIV status would either have to visit a private medical clinic, their local GUM (Genitourinary Medicine) clinic or at health centres in their local community.

The aim of the service, which is completely confidential, is to provide an efficient, easily accessible, HIV testing service in the community setting. Each test costs £79 and the patient will receive an indication of their HIV status in just 60 seconds.

The test offered is the 'InstiTest' which uses a fingertip blood sample. The test gives an indication of a result and the patient will require a confirmation of a positive reaction by a venous blood sample at their local GUM clinic with an HIV specialist. The test being offered by Superdrug is 99.96 per cent accurate.

Before the test the nurse and patient will discuss the process and the nurse will establish informed consent for the test. The registered nurses have been given specific training in the use of the HIV test kit and further training on patient assessment, consultation guidelines and testing protocol, the nurses also have experience in counseling in sexual health.

Using their existing relationships with their local NHS clinics nurses will, in the case of a positive reaction, recommend an urgent follow up blood test at the local GUM clinic and, with their consent, will make this initial appointment with the clinic on behalf of the patient.

All testing is confidential and if a patient requires written confirmation of results then their identity will be confirmed with photo ID; identification is not required just to take a test and gain a verbal result, though a patient's name and birth date will be asked for.

Martin Crisp, Superdrug's Superintendent pharmacist, said: "Our nurse clinics are high street health hubs offering advice and tests on common health problems from weight management and travel inoculations to mole checks.

"Although HIV remains rare it is something that our customers worry about. This simple test can give a clear indication of the virus and our nurses can give those worried about HIV the advice and information they need to stay healthy."

Superdrug is linking with CITYDoc to provide up to date testing and training information to offer the HIV testing service.

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For further information please contact Jenny Hill on 020 7896 3404 or email superdrug@z-pr.com

Notes to editors:

- Superdrug is the United Kingdom's most fashion conscious beauty and health retailer with over 900 stores in the UK and Eire
- Superdrug is one of the health & beauty retail brands from the A.S. Watson Group (ASW) family – the world's largest health & beauty retailer and the largest perfumeries & cosmetics



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retailer. With a history dating back to 1828, ASW has evolved into an international retail and manufacturing business with operations in 36 markets worldwide. A.S. Watson has a network of over 7,800 retail stores globally with store in over 1,800 cities, with over 98,000 employees and serves over 25 million customers a week