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1 **Near patient chlamydia and gonorrhoea screening and treatment in further**

2 **education/technical colleges: A cost analysis of the 'Test n Treat' feasibility trial**

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1 **Abstract**

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4 **Background:** Community-based screening may be one solution to increase testing and treatment of  
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7 sexually transmitted infections in sexually active teenagers, but there are few data on the  
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9 practicalities and cost of running such a service. We estimate the cost of running a 'Test n Treat'  
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11 service providing rapid chlamydia (CT) and gonorrhoea (NG) testing and same day on-site CT  
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13 treatment in technical colleges.

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16 **Methods:** Process data from a 2016/17 cluster randomised feasibility trial were used to  
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19 estimate total costs and service uptake. Pathway mapping was used to model different  
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22 uptake scenarios. Participants, from six London colleges, provided self-taken genitourinary  
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25 samples in the nearest toilet. Included in the study were 509 sexually active students (mean  
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28 85/college): median age 17.9 years, 49% male, 50% black ethnicity, with a baseline CT and  
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31 NG prevalence of 6% and 0.5%, respectively. All participants received information about CT  
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34 and NG infections at recruitment. When the Test n Treat team visited, participants were  
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37 texted/emailed invitations to attend for confidential testing. Three colleges were randomly  
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40 allocated the intervention, to host (non-incentivised) Test n Treat one and four months after  
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43 baseline. All six colleges hosted follow-up Test n Treat seven months after baseline when  
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46 students received a £10 incentive (to participate).

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49 **Results:** The mean non-incentivised daily uptake per college was 5 students (range 1 to 17),  
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52 which cost £237 (range £1,082 to £88) per student screened, and £4,657 (range £21,281 to  
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55 £1,723) per CT infection detected, or £13,970 (range £63,842 to £5,169) per NG infection  
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58 detected.

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61 The mean incentivised daily uptake was 19 students which cost £91 per student screened,  
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64 and £1,408/CT infection or £7,042/NG infection detected.

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1 If daily capacity for screening were achieved (49 students/day), costs including incentives  
2 would be £47 per person screened and £925/CT infection or £2,774/NG infection detected.

3 **Conclusions:** Delivering non-incentivised Test n Treat in technical colleges is more expensive  
4 per person screened than CT and NG screening in clinics. Targeting areas with high infection  
5 rates, combined with high, incentivised uptake could make costs comparable.

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7 **Trial Registration** ISRCTN58038795, Assigned August 2016, registered prospectively.

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9 **Keywords:**

10 Test n Treat, chlamydia, gonorrhoea, cost analysis, genitourinary infection, health services.

# 1 Background

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3 2 *Chlamydia trachomatis* (CT) and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (NG) are bacterial sexually  
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6 3 transmitted infections (STI), responsible for almost half of STI diagnoses in England and 62%  
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9 4 in people aged 15-24 years. (1) However, uptake of testing in many countries is too low to  
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11 5 reduce infection rates, and there may be delays in obtaining treatment. As both infections  
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13 6 can be symptomless, they can go undetected leading to problems such as pelvic  
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16 7 inflammatory disease, epididymitis, infertility and adverse birth outcomes.(2,3) Although NG  
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19 8 is less common than CT, it is a potentially more serious STI over which there are concerns  
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22 9 about antibiotic resistance. (4) Therefore, in this study, participants diagnosed with NG were  
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24 10 referred to specialist clinics for further management. (5,6)

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27 11 Self-collected vaginal swabs (for females) and first void urine samples (for males) are ideal  
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30 12 sample types for CT and NG testing. Combining this with portable point of care (POC) rapid  
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33 13 test platforms gives potential to test for these infections in a variety of community settings,  
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36 14 allowing people to receive results on the same day as testing. Using POC CT/NG tests in high  
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39 15 prevalence settings may help reduce the burden of disease by making testing more  
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42 16 convenient and providing results faster, thereby reducing the time to treatment. (7,8)  
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45 17 However, data on the costs of providing community-based services are limited. Previous cost  
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48 18 analyses have primarily focused on using POC CT/NG tests in clinical settings and/or based on  
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51 19 modelled data. (9–11) There is an urgent need for real life data to explore the economics and  
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54 20 practicalities of screening and treatment of STIs in the community.

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57 21 We used field data from the 'Test n Treat' (TnT) feasibility trial of screening for CT/NG in  
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60 22 further education/technical colleges (5,6). (Further education colleges offer both academic  
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63 23 and practical courses such as plumbing and hairdressing and take many students from socio-  
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1 economically deprived backgrounds.) The feasibility trial aimed to measure uptake and  
2 acceptability of on-site rapid STI testing and treatment to students, and recruitment and  
3 follow up rates. In the current economic analysis, we estimated the cost per person  
4 screened and the cost per CT/NG infection detected for:

- 5 • Non-incentivised testing
- 6 • Incentivised testing
- 7 • Maximum possible uptake (using incentives)

## 9 **Methods**

### 10 **Aims**

11 To estimate the costs of running a 'Test n Treat' service providing rapid CT and NG testing  
12 and same day on-site CT treatment in technical colleges and to estimate the cost per person  
13 screened and per CT/NG infection detected for: non-incentivised/standard testing;  
14 incentivised testing-when participants were given £10 to be tested; and with maximum  
15 possible uptake (using incentives).

### 16 **Intervention**

17 The TnT cluster randomised feasibility trial recruited sexually active students attending six  
18 technical colleges in South London. 'Test n Treat' refers to testing students for CT and NG on  
19 site at their college, giving them a same day result, and offering same day on-site treatment  
20 from a health adviser for students with a positive CT test. (As mentioned earlier, students  
21 with NG were referred to a sexual health clinic for specialist management.)

1 The protocol and main results of the TnT trial are available elsewhere. (5,6) In summary, 509  
2 sexually active ethnically diverse students aged 16-24 years were recruited from communal  
3 areas in six technical colleges in South London in October 2016 (Figure 1). Participants  
4 completed questionnaires on sexual lifestyle and provided self-taken genitourinary samples.  
5 We provided information about the risks of CT/NG and explained that as these baseline  
6 samples would not be tested for 7 months all participants should seek STI testing at a sexual  
7 health clinic or from their family doctor independently of the trial.

### 8 **Figure 1. TnT flow chart**

9 Three of the colleges were randomly assigned to receive TnT visits one and four months after  
10 recruitment. Students previously recruited at these sites were texted/emailed invitations to  
11 come to a classroom for confidential testing and same day on-site treatment. As previously,  
12 they were asked to provide self-taken urine samples (males) or vaginal swabs (females) in the  
13 nearest toilet. (In women, vaginal swabs are more reliable than urines for detection of CT.)  
14 Samples were tested immediately in a “pop-up” laboratory at the college using the  
15 GeneXpert® CT/NG test (Cepheid, Sunnyvale, CA, USA) yielding a result in 90 minutes. (12)  
16 The GeneXpert4/4s machine - a portable unit weighing 10kg - contains four modules which  
17 can be used asynchronously to test four separate samples. Three machines were used at each  
18 TnT visit allowing 12 samples to be tested simultaneously.

19 Negative results were texted to participants (in a median time of 2.1 hours after providing a  
20 sample). The research team's nurse health adviser telephoned participants with positive  
21 results and met them in another private room in college (same day whenever possible) for  
22 confidential treatment for CT, partner notification and/or referral (for NG management).

1 Students with CT who did not attend for treatment in college, and those with dual CT/NG  
2 infection, were referred to a sexual health clinic for further management.

3 In the three control colleges, students received text messages 1 month and 4 months after  
4 recruitment thanking them for their participation. For the outcome assessment exploring  
5 change in CT prevalence, the TnT service was offered in all six colleges at seven months - when  
6 students received a £10 incentive for providing a follow up sample (and questionnaire). The  
7 incentive was suggested by our PPI group and intended to maximise follow up.

#### 8 Calculating costs and consumables

9 There were two types of costs involved in providing the TnT service: the fixed or “daily” costs,  
10 i.e. costs incurred irrespective of the number of people screened; and the per person costs,  
11 i.e. the variable costs dependent on the number of people screened. The components of  
12 delivering TnT included the cost of two healthcare assistants organising CT/NG screening, and  
13 a health advisor providing treatment where CT was diagnosed, plus the cost of travel, all  
14 equipment and consumables (Supplementary Table 1, Additional file 1). There was no charge  
15 from the participating colleges for use of their rooms. (This is usual practice for visiting  
16 services which are provided free and may benefit students.) Costs reflect 2018 prices and are  
17 presented in British pounds. Currency conversion rates are taken from 1st June 2018, and  
18 inflation rates are taken from mid-year. (13,14)

#### 19 Uptake scenarios used to calculate screening costs

20 Variation in testing uptake impacts the per-person cost of providing the service. As such, three  
21 different scenarios are reported based on uptake:

- 1 1. The average (a), minimum (b), maximum (c), half the average (d) and double the average  
2 (e), number of students who used the non-incentivised service.  
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- 5 2. The average number of students who used the incentivised service (when students  
6 received £10 for participation).  
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- 9 3. The maximum number of students who could use the service if it were run at full capacity.  
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13 Scenario 1 was calculated using the TnT data from the one and four-month visits at the  
14 three intervention colleges, which were two days each (12 days in total). Scenario 2 was  
15 calculated using the incentivised two-day TnT seven months follow up at all six colleges (12  
16 days in total). Trial design meant using a pragmatic simulation model (detailed below) to  
17 show the maximum number of students who could be tested in a day with two staff, three  
18 machines and incentives. The reason for doing this was that the trial design meant we only  
19 invited the 85 students already recruited at each college to TnT. If TnT were rolled out to all  
20 colleges in real life, all students at the college (range 500-3000 per college) would be invited  
21 for testing. With incentives it is possible that maximum daily capacity would be achieved.  
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23 Scenario 3 was calculated by creating a simulation model in Python (Python Software  
24 Foundation. Python Language Reference, Version 2.7).(15). Details are outlined in Additional  
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#### 45 21 Testing and treatment pathway

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48 In order to calculate total costs, a testing and treatment pathway was mapped containing the  
49 different cost contributions and uncertainties. For non-incentivised and incentivised  
50 scenarios, the following pathway parameters were calculated based on the field data.  
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- 1 • Ratio of male to female participants (because the samples from males and females
- 2 took different times to process)
- 3 • Proportion of tests that failed on first run (for example, because samples did not
- 4 contain human DNA) and were repeated
- 5 • Proportion of tests that failed because the sample was inadequate or missing, and
- 6 therefore the student was asked to provide another sample
- 7 • Proportion of repeat samples provided/not provided
- 8 • CT positivity rate
- 9 • NG positivity rate

10 Primary outcomes

11 Three primary outcomes, based on outcomes used by the National Chlamydia Screening  
12 Programme (NCSP) (16), were estimated for each uptake scenario:

- 13 1. The cost per student screened for CT/NG
- 14 2. The cost per CT infection detected
- 15 3. The cost per NG infection detected

16 For each uptake scenario, the cost per student screened was calculated as: (fixed daily cost  
17 + [per screen cost x number of screens])/number of screens. The cost per CT or NG infection  
18 detected was calculated as: cost per student screened x number of screens needed to  
19 diagnose one infection (i.e. 100/% prevalence).

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2 Further analyses

3 Each college was visited for two consecutive days and there were typically fewer tests  
4 performed on the second day. Where the CT/NG testing platforms were at full capacity during  
5 college hours or repeat testing was needed, tests were performed in the evening after  
6 students had left college, or the following day. For each scenario, the number of test results  
7 that were not given on the same day as the sample was provided is reported, as well as the  
8 number of students who could not be given a test result because they did not give a valid  
9 sample. The model parameters for estimating maximum capacity were based on averages per  
10 TnT session: 49:51 male; 5% repeated samples; 20% of failed tests need to be resampled of  
11 whom 25% provide a second sample; 5% CT positivity rate.

12 Patient and public involvement

13 Focus groups were used to inform the study design of the feasibility trial including  
14 incentives. The steering committee included four student representatives.

15

16 **Results**

17 CT/NG screening uptake

18 In total, 291 samples were tested from 254 students: 59 tests when no incentive was given,  
19 (at the two intervention visits) and 232 when £10 incentives were given (at the follow-up  
20 visit). Half the students who used the service were female (51%, 130/254), and the median  
21 age was 17.9 years.

1 There was an average of 85 participants recruited per college. Students from college A  
2 provided 26 samples during the non-incentivised TnT interventions and 37 during the  
3 incentivised follow-up. College B and college C provided 14 and 31 samples, and 19 and 33  
4 samples, respectively. The three control colleges D, E and F provided 48, 43 and 43 samples  
5 at the incentivised follow up. Ten samples (3%) required repeat testing. Of these, four had to  
6 be resampled as they were invalid. Invalid samples (with no human DNA) only occurred during  
7 the incentivised follow-up. Only one student provided a second valid sample, and so three  
8 people could not be given a result. Overall, 5.8% (17/291) of samples tested positive for CT  
9 and 1.4% (4/291) for NG.

10 Each of the intervention colleges A-C was visited on two consecutive days at 1 and 4 months.  
11 The mean number of students tested each day per college at the non-incentivised service was  
12 five, the highest uptake in one day was 17. There were two days when only one student used  
13 the service. By comparison, the average daily number of students who used the incentivised  
14 service per college (in all colleges A-F at 7 months follow-up) was 19 (232 over 12 days) (Table  
15 1).

#### 16 Pathway timing

17 The median time for sampling, testing and receiving the results of the CT/NG test was 129  
18 minutes, including the time needed to repeat test 10 samples. For a negative result, the  
19 median time was 128 minutes and for a positive result it was 160 minutes. Each step involved  
20 in sampling, testing and reporting results to students are presented in Figure 2, and the  
21 associated times are presented in Supplementary Table 3, Additional file 7.

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1 **Figure 2. Student pathway flowchart showing possible testing scenarios with field data**

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5 3 Estimated costs

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8 4 The fixed daily cost per college visit was £1056.61. This comprised of staff costs (£753.60);  
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10 5 courier services delivering three machines (£110.40), diagnostic equipment hire (£184.20)  
11  
12 6 and consumables (£8.41) (Supplementary Table 1). Each screen performed cost an additional  
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14 7 £25.45, accounting for the small number of repeat tests and the additional £2 for the cost of  
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16 8 antibiotics to treat those diagnosed with CT.  
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21 9 Estimating maximum capacity

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24 10 The model found that the maximum number of students who could attend the service if it  
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26 11 was run at full capacity using three 4-unit machines was 49 per day. Figure 3 shows the  
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28 12 timeline for each student screened in scenario 3.  
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36 14 **Figure 3. Gantt chart showing each student's pathway in one simulated day of TnT**

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39 15 Footnotes:

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42 16 The simulation was based on pathway data from 24 days of providing the TnT service.

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45 17 In scenario 3, there was insufficient remaining time to test all the samples that required  
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47 18 repeat testing (1% of total).  
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51 19 'Handover to HA' refers to the health advisor being given the details of students with a  
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54 20 positive result so she could contact them to provide treatment and arrange partner  
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56 21 notification.  
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1 'Text result' is for negative results only.

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3 Screening costs

4 The cost per student screened and per CT/NG infection detected for the different uptake  
5 scenarios (accounting for the fixed daily costs and the per screen costs) are presented in Table  
6 1.

7 For the non-incentivised service, where CT prevalence was 5.1% (3/59) and NG prevalence  
8 1.7% (1/59), the mean cost per student screened was £237 and the cost per CT/NG infection  
9 detected was £4,657/£13,970 respectively.

10 For the incentivised service, where CT prevalence was 6.5% (15/232) and NG prevalence 1.3%  
11 (3/232), the cost per student screened was £91 and the cost per CT/NG infection detected  
12 was £1,408/£7,042 respectively.

13 Just as higher uptake of the service reduced the cost per screen, in settings with higher CT  
14 prevalence the cost per CT infection detected would be lower. For example, if the prevalence  
15 of CT was 8%, the cost per CT infection detected would be £2,960/£1,138/£588 for non-  
16 incentivised, incentivised and maximum incentivised uptake (i.e. scenarios 1a, 2 and 3)  
17 respectively. At 10% CT prevalence, the cost per CT infection detected would be  
18 £2,368/£911/£470 for non-incentivised, incentivised and maximum incentivised uptake  
19 respectively.

1 **Table 1: Screening costs of providing TnT in technical colleges**

Uptake scenario [Students screened per day, per college]	Cost per student	Cost per CT infection detected	Cost per NG infection detected
1a. Average uptake non-incentivised [n=5]	£236.77	£4,656.55	£13,969.66
1b. Lowest uptake non-incentivised [n=1]	£1,082.06	£21,280.52	£63,841.56
1c. Highest uptake non-incentivised [n=17]	£87.61	£1,722.91	£5,168.73
1d. Half the average uptake non-incentivised [n=2.5]	£448.10	£8,812.54	£26,437.63
1e. Double the average uptake non-incentivised [n=10]	£131.11	£2,578.56	£7,735.67
2. Average incentivised uptake* [n=19]	£91.06	£1,408.44	£7,042.22
3. Maximum incentivised uptake [n=49]	£47.02	£924.64	£2,773.92

Footnotes:

Scenario 1a: The average number of students who used the non-incentivised service.

Scenario 1b: The minimum number of students who used the non-incentivised service.

Scenario 1c: The maximum number of students who used the non-incentivised service.

Scenario 1d: Half the average update for the non-incentivised service.

Scenario 1e: Double the average update for the non-incentivised service.

Scenario 2: The average number of students who used the incentivised service.

Scenario 3: The maximum number of students who could use the service if it was run at full capacity using three 4-unit machines.

\*Costs for scenarios 2 and 3 include £10 per student incentive.

Data for 27 tests (9% of total) run after 5pm on the first of a two-day TnT visit are included in the calculations.

# 1 Discussion

## 2 Principal findings

3 Using the non-incentivised TnT screening service piloted in FE colleges, the estimated cost per  
4 student screened for CT/NG, was £237 for the average daily uptake of the service (5  
5 students/day), or £88 per student screened at times of highest use of the service. With highest  
6 use (17 students/day) the cost per CT/NG infection detected was £1723/£5169 respectively.  
7 Students were notified of their results quickly: average time to notification was just over two  
8 hours. There was a high fixed cost (over £1000 per day) for providing the service-mainly staff  
9 costs. This means there is a high cost per student screened when uptake of the service is low.  
10 However, incentives may be cost effective for case detection. Our model suggested that if  
11 using incentives achieved maximum capacity (49 students/day), the cost per student  
12 screened and per CT infection detected would be much lower: £47 and £925 respectively.

## 13 Strengths and weaknesses

14 This is the first UK study to use “real-life” field data as a basis for cost analysis of providing  
15 POC CT/NG services outside of clinical settings, and the first to evaluate the use of rapid tests  
16 and treatment in the community. The list of resources used in the TnT study are presented and  
17 could be used as a “how-to” guide for sexual health services wanting to provide this type of  
18 service within colleges or other community-based settings. Incentivisation could therefore  
19 increase uptake and reduce the per-person and per-infection screening costs as average  
20 attendance was much higher in the incentivised scenario. TnT may be reaching students who  
21 would not otherwise get tested. Although at recruitment we advised all participants to get  
22 tested outside the trial, only 27% of responders reported doing this.

1 This type of service could reach groups such as sexually active adolescents who might  
2 otherwise be reluctant to access community sexual health services or to have postal CT tests  
3 sent to their home. The majority of students who were screened as part of TnT did not have  
4 a CT test outside of TnT,(6) despite being advised to do this at recruitment. Most participants  
5 (90%) were teenagers, and almost half of those tested were male, in contrast to the NCSP  
6 which screens a much higher proportion of females, (despite being an opportunistic screening  
7 programme for any gender). (16) Males may be happier to engage with community-based  
8 screening than screening in a clinical setting. (17,18)

9 The main weakness is that testing uptake may have been limited by the study design – only  
10 students recruited and consented into the study were eligible to use the service. During our  
11 earlier one-day pilot of TnT when any sexually active student could take part, attendance was  
12 considerably higher (34 per day). (19) Using the same cost data, the cost per screen in the  
13 pilot was £56.53 and the cost per CT infection detected, £640.66 (as CT prevalence was 11%  
14 [3/34]). Secondly, as all students were already part of the TnT study, they already had some  
15 knowledge of testing from providing samples at recruitment and were contacted directly to  
16 participate. This may have increased participation. Selection bias may have occurred both at  
17 recruitment and during testing. However, the prevalence of CT infection in incentivised and  
18 non-incentivised TnT was similar (6% and 5% respectively), suggesting that providing  
19 incentives did not increase levels of testing disproportionately in low-risk groups - as has been  
20 the concern with other screening strategies.(16)

21 Another limitation is that although most test times were documented, some were estimates.  
22 Real times will vary according to students' familiarity with providing samples and staff skills,  
23 as well as locational variables such as the distance to the nearest bathroom and the distance



1 between the lab and the meeting space. These estimates were however based on experience  
2 in the field and, where possible, repeated measurements were taken. The colleges did not  
3 charge for use of rooms, but these costs might need to be added for screening in other  
4 settings. Finally, findings may not be widely applicable. This study focused on six technical  
5 colleges in south London, an area which has good transport links and where there is access to  
6 multiple NHS sexual health services. Costs, particularly costs associated with travel and venue  
7 hire, may be higher in other settings. Uptake of services may also be different in other settings  
8 or among older or less ethnically diverse groups, something which would impact average  
9 costs.

10 The small number of students screened per day and the high fixed cost of providing the  
11 service means that the per student cost was very sensitive to changes in the number of  
12 students screened per day. Compared to average uptake for the non-incentivised service, if  
13 twice as many students were screened, the cost per student decreased considerably (from  
14 £236.77 for 5 screens/day to £131.11 for 10/day) and if half as many students were screened  
15 it increased considerably (to £448.10 for 2.5 screens/day).

#### 16 17 Comparison with other studies

18 The estimated costs under the average non-incentivised conditions in this feasibility study  
19 (£237 per student screened) were considerably higher than the London Integrated Sexual  
20 Health Tariff (ISHT) for a CT/NG test used in numerous clinical settings within the NHS  
21 (National Health Service), which was £45 per attendance in 2017/2018.(20) They are also  
22 higher than the estimated cost of opportunistic CT screening in the UK in 2011 – estimated at  
23 £61 per CT screening episode for 2018 (inflated from £51 for NCSP 2011 data)(16), and in

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1 Ireland estimated at £23 per offer (in 2018, inflated and converted from €26 in 2008).(21,22)

2 If demand for the TnT service was very high and the service was run at full capacity, the cost  
3 per student tested would be £47. This cost is closer to the ISHT and NCSP screening costs. In  
4 addition, if demand were that high, it is likely the service would be extended over a longer  
5 period of time to meet the demand which would impact costs further.

6 There have been cost analyses of non-clinic-based screening in other countries. In “Stamp out  
7 Chlamydia”, an Australian community screening study, the non-incentivised cost per person  
8 screen was £128 (inflated and converted from 2007 data).(17) A more recent study of routine  
9 repeat screening in the Netherlands reported screening costs of £100 per-screen (inflated and  
10 converted from 2014 data).(22) A community CT screening study in England aimed at men  
11 attending sports clubs estimated that costs ranged from £92 to £100 per screen (inflated from  
12 2013 estimates) with no CT infections detected.(23)

13 The high prevalence of CT in the participating FE colleges (5.1% non-incentivised and 6.5%  
14 when incentivised) resulted in lower costs per infection detected compared to similar  
15 screening studies. The estimated cost per CT infection diagnosed was £4,657 when using data  
16 for non-incentivised average daily uptake of the service and £1,723 when using data for  
17 highest non-incentivised uptake. This is comparable with both the “Stamp out Chlamydia”  
18 study and the Netherlands based routine screening study which reported costs of £5,395 and  
19 £5,053 per CT infection detected respectively (inflated to 2018 costs). (17,22) The TnT model  
20 had advantages over these testing strategies in that it also screened for NG and provided  
21 same day results and treatment for CT. Finally, the estimated incentivised costs in the “Stamp  
22 out chlamydia” study were £20 per-screen and £2,378 per CT infection diagnosed compared  
23 to £91 per-screen and £1,408 per CT infection detected for TnT. In both studies when

1 screening was incentivised, the per-screen and per-CT infection diagnosed costs were less  
2 while the rate of CT detection was relatively unchanged.

## 3 4 **Conclusion**

5 Although resource intensive, with sufficient uptake and high rates of STIs, delivering the TnT  
6 service in non-clinical settings may cost a similar amount to CT/NG testing in clinics. The  
7 higher screening cost could be justified if people using the service were unlikely to use other  
8 less costly services such as postal screening or attending clinics. It could also be appropriate  
9 in settings where community health services are sparse or difficult to access or where other  
10 types of screening for CT/NG are not available or well accepted.

11 Higher uptake of the service would considerably reduce the cost per screen. Our study  
12 suggests incentivising testing could help increase uptake without reducing positivity rates. As  
13 shown in the process evaluation, incentives might also reduce stigma as people can imply that  
14 they are just getting tested for the money. However, we found this needs to be carefully  
15 managed to avoid abuse (such as impersonation or providing invalid samples). Finally, our  
16 participants' lack of awareness of STIs and the need for testing highlight the need for better  
17 sex education for young people and for making regular STI checks routine.

## 18 19 **List of abbreviations**

20 CT *Chlamydia trachomatis*  
21 NG *Neisseria gonorrhoea*  
22 STI Sexually transmitted infections  
23 POC Point of care

- 1 TnT Test n Treat
- 2 NCSP National Chlamydia Screening Programme
- 3 HA Health advisor
- 4 ISHT Integrated Sexual Health Tariff
- 5 RfPB Research for Patient Benefit Programme
- 6

## 7 **Declarations**

8 **Ethics approval and consent to participate:** The study was approved by Bromley Research  
9 Ethics Committee (REC), part of the UK Health Departments' Research Ethics Service,  
10 reference 15/LO/1929. Students provided written informed consent.

11 **Consent for publication:** N/A

12 **Availability of data and materials:** The datasets used and/or analysed during the current  
13 study are available on reasonable request from PO, the TnT trial's Principal Investigator, via  
14 the corresponding author.

15 **Competing interests:** All authors have completed the Unified Competing Interest Form. PO is  
16 a member of the NIHR South London Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research  
17 and a member of the esti2 consortium funded under the UKCRC Translational Infection  
18 Research Initiative supported by the Medical Research Council (Grant Number G0901608)  
19 with contributions from the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, the  
20 National Institute for Health Research. EA and SH are employed by Aquarius Population  
21 Health that receives grants and other funding to work on projects relating to STIs from  
22 Cepheid, Binx Health, and St George's, University of London. STS directs The Applied  
23 Diagnostic Research and Evaluation Unit, which has conducted diagnostic evaluations for

1 rapid STI tests for a number of companies including Cepheid, Binx Health, Alere, TwistDx and  
2 SpeedDx.

3 **Funding:** The Test 'n' Treat study was funded by the NIHR under its Research for Patient  
4 Benefit (RfPB) Programme (Grant Reference Number **PB-PG-1014-35007**). The views  
5 expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the NHS, the NIHR or the  
6 Department of Health. Neither the funding body nor Cepheid (who provided the testing  
7 equipment) had any role in the design of the study, the collection, analysis or interpretation  
8 of the data, or the write-up of the manuscript.

9 **Authors' contributions:** SKB, SH and EA designed the analysis, SKB conducted the analysis and  
10 wrote the first draft, SH and EA advised on the analysis and reviewed and critiqued each draft.  
11 PO helped shape the paper, inform the analysis and edit later drafts of the paper. PO, CH, FR,  
12 STS and VD contributed to the interpretation of the results. All authors read and approved  
13 the final manuscript.

14 **Acknowledgements:** We thank students and staff at the participating London FE colleges:  
15 Kingston College, Lambeth College, Lewisham Southwark College and South Thames College  
16 (Merton and Wandsworth campuses).

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1 **Supplementary Tables and Figures:**

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3 2 Additional file 1.docx. Supplementary Table 1: Costs and consumables required to deliver  
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6 3 the Test n Treat service.

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9 4 The costs incurred throughout the study are listed in Supplementary Table 1, along with a  
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11  
12 5 description of the cost, purchase unit, quantity, type of cost and source of information are  
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14 6 also included.

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17 7 [Additional file 2.docx](#). Calculating the maximum capacity of the TnT service (Scenario 3)

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21 8 Additional file 3.docx. Supplementary Table 2: Processes required to deliver Test n Treat as  
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23 9 research and as a service.

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26 10 All the procedures performed in the study by either patient or staff are listed in  
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28  
29 11 Supplementary Table 2, the time taken to perform the task, the type of delivery and the  
30  
31 12 people involved are also listed.

32  
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34  
35 13 Additional file 4.docx. Practical Notes and Considerations.

36  
37  
38 14 A description of some practical details and considerations to be taken into account when  
39  
40  
41 15 implementating the TnT service in a real-world setting.

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44 16 Additional file 5.jpg. Supplementary Figure 1. One-day timeline for two clinical staff  
45  
46 17 providing TnT service – used to estimate maximum capacity (scenario 3).

47  
48  
49  
50 18 A timeline of the day for two healthcare staff, one student facing and one laboratory  
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52 19 technician, representing the maximum number of tasks which they can perform when using  
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55 20 three machines.

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1 Additional file 6.jpg. Supplementary Figure 2. One-day timeline for three 4-unit diagnostic  
2 machines – used to estimate maximum capacity (scenario 3).

3 A timeline of the day representing the maximum number of students (47) that could be  
4 tested across 12 modules (3 machines). Students occupied one spot until all machines were  
5 saturated.

6 Additional file 7.docx. Supplementary Table 3: Activities involved in the delivery of point of  
7 care testing and treating of Chlamydia, time taken, worker occupation and condition under  
8 which the process is required.

9 A description of the processes involved in the point of care delivery is found in  
10 Supplementary Table 3, as well as the time required, the person actively performing the task  
11 and any conditions that might be associated with the task are also included.

12

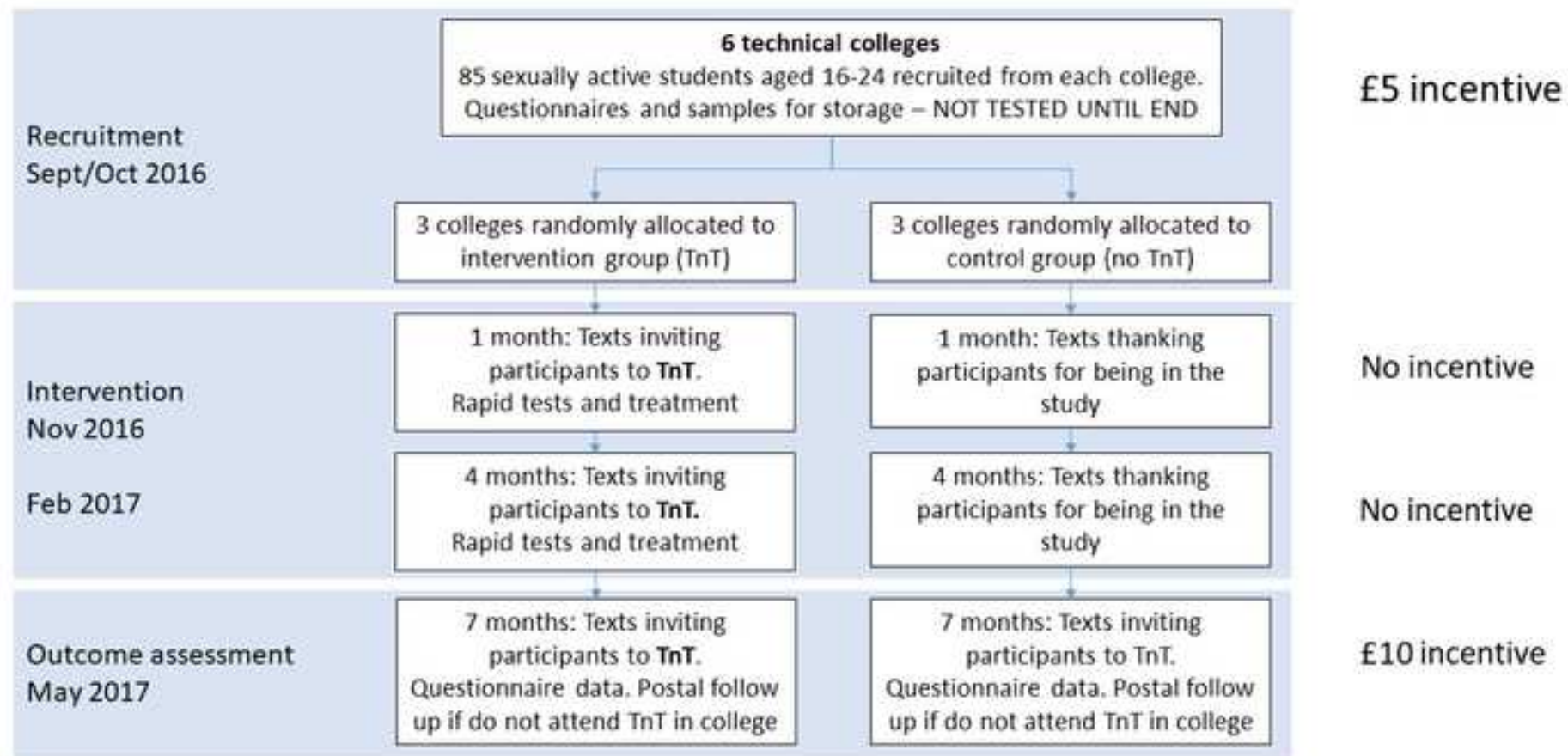
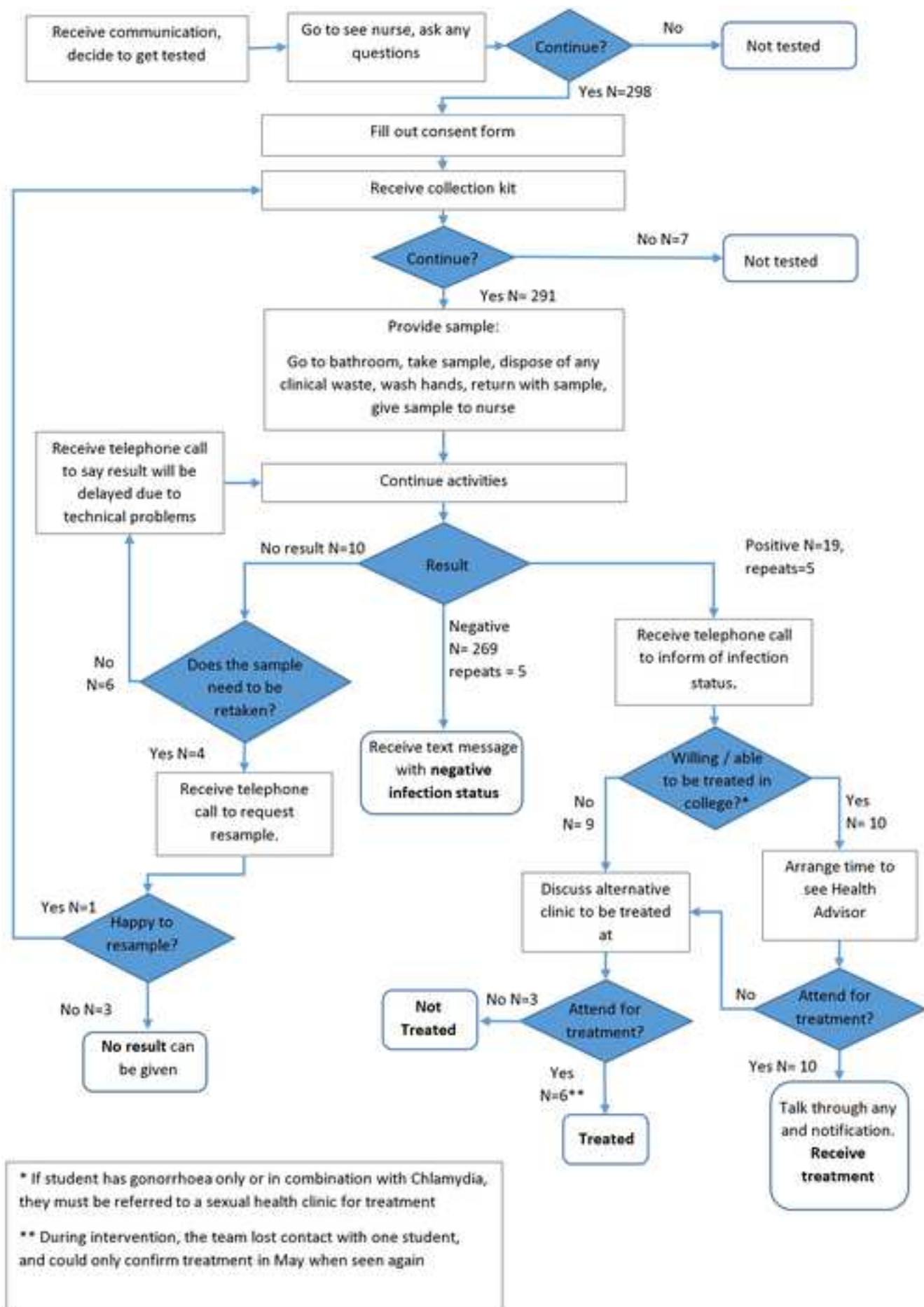
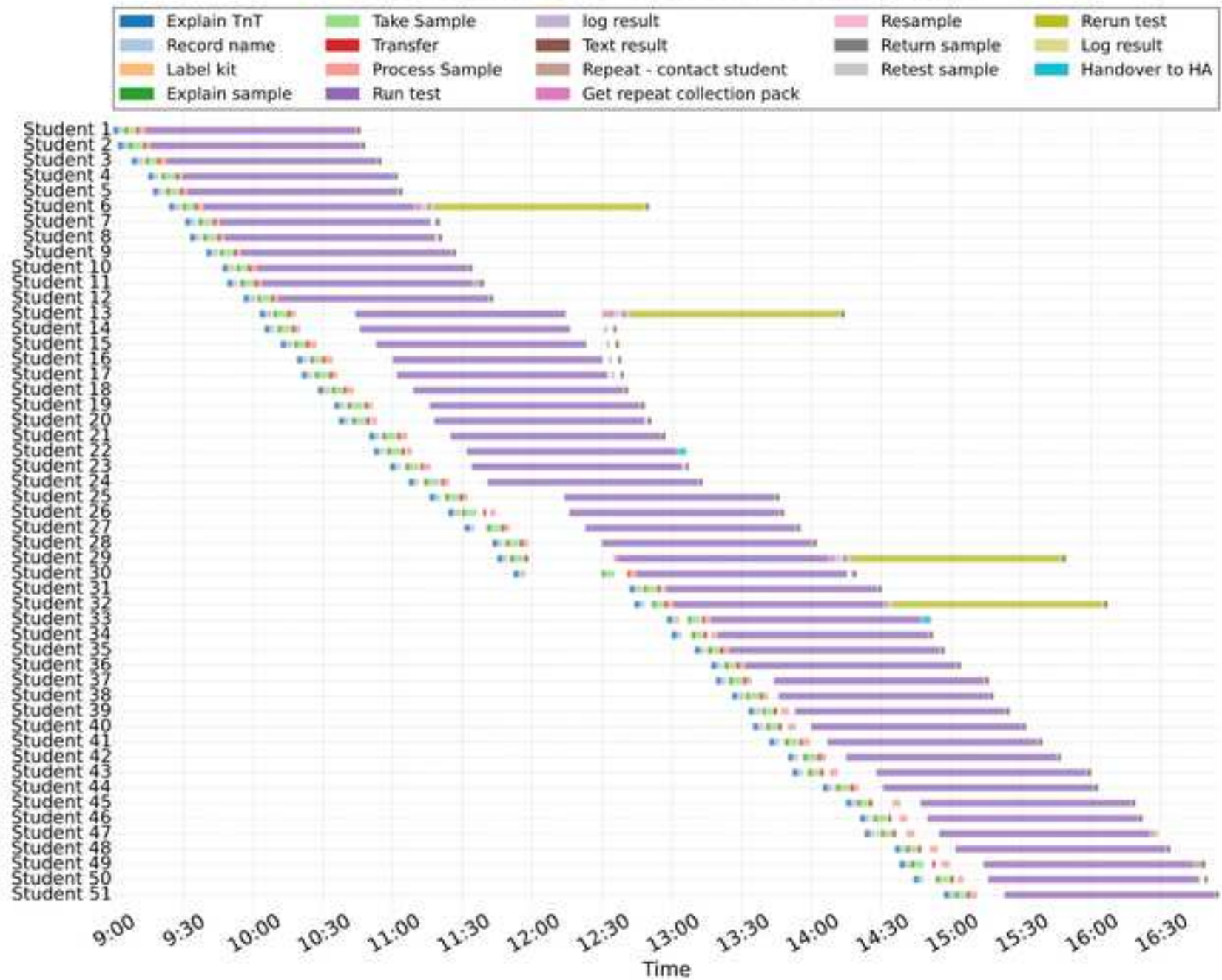
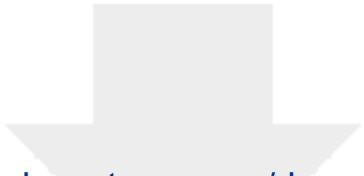


Figure 2

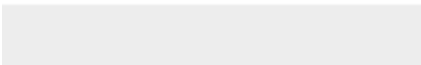



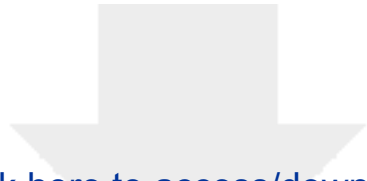
### Timeline from test to test result for each student



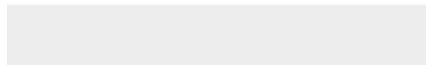


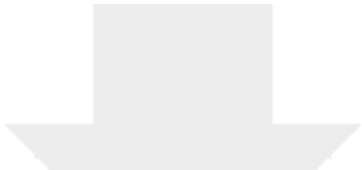
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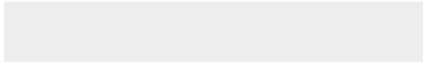



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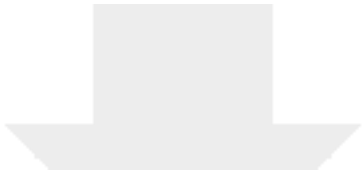





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