



TEST CASE: Pharmacy manager Sarah Basey with the boxed test at Rivermead Pharmacy in Copthorne

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Paternity tests available at Copthorne chemist

Who's the daddy? Find out for £149

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DADS can find out if they are the father of a child in a test now available at pharmacies.

Rivermead Pharmacy, in Copthorne, is one of the first chemists outside central London to sell DNA tests over the counter.

The pharmacy, in Church Road, started selling the do-it-yourself paternity test kit last week.

It costs £30 to buy the test kit, while potential dads have to fork out another £119 to have samples tested at a lab.

More accessible

Pharmacy manager Sarah Basey said selling the kits at a local pharmacy "makes the test more accessible".

She said: "People don't have to go through the doctor, anyone can come in and ask questions. People often like the

more personal touch. "We would normally go through the procedure and the instructions of how to use the kit."

Each pack contains buccal swabs, larger cotton buds which are used to wipe the inside of the cheek of the mother, the possible father and the child.

The swabs are then put into collection envelopes and sent to the laboratories for testing.

Results are issued to the customer within five days of arriving at the lab.

Miss Basey said all those adults being tested have to sign a consent form or the form has to be signed by an adult if the mother and potential father are under 16.

The child's consent is needed if they are over 16.

She said: "If the tests are not done properly or without consent, you can be prosecuted.

"We haven't had anyone buy one yet,

but we've had a few people asking questions about it.

"It's not invasive or a blood test so people can do it themselves."

The DNA Paternity tests are produced and processed by International Biosciences.

Accurate

The tests claim to be 100 per cent accurate but are not designed for legal custody battles.

Miss Basey added: "People often need to do it for peace of mind.

"They do have to consider the consequences of having it done for themselves and their children.

"It can affect people's lives in positive or negative ways and impact in ways they wouldn't realise."

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