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BASHH RESPONSE TO ‘SEXUAL HEALTH CLINICS NOT MEETING DEMAND’ –
Published in Sexual Transmitted Infections Journal February 2006

Dr. Simon Barton, President, British Association for Sexual Health & HIV
(BASHH) comments:

“The latest findings from the research conducted in Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS
Trust is reflective of what is happening across the country. BASHH clinicians at the
frontline of sexual health services, particularly GUM clinics, have long expressed
concerns over the extreme pressure they work under, and the difficulties faced due to
inadequate resource and capacity to meet the local population’s needs.

This problem was also highlighted in October 2005 by the BBC Panorama
investigations, which revealed that a quarter of UK sex health clinics couldn’t treat
patients needing urgent help within the recommended 48 hours.

BASHH has consistently stressed that improving sexual health services and tackling
waiting times is an essential part of disease prevention, as failure to treat infections
promptly – or at all, in some cases – means untreated patients remain sexually active
in the community, and further increase the spread of STIs.

We welcome the recognition that the sexual health crisis in Britain is an important
issue, which is now reflected in government plans to make sexual health one of the
key national priorities for the NHS this year.”

-Ends-

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Notes to Editor:

- For the full BBC Panorama survey results on access to GUM clinics visit:
  http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/panorama/4335964.stm