Taking a sexual history

Why we need to take a hx:  
- diagnoses   
-risks  
-sx  
- window period for testing   
- contact tracing   
- health promotion   
- need for immunisation   
- additional risks ie pep, contraception   
  
What's different about a sexual hx:  
- more personal   
- pts may feel uncomfortable  
- unexpected   
- emotional issues  
- moral or legal issues   
- usually involves other people   
- emotive issues   
  
Barriers to taking a good sexual hx:  
- pt and provider embarrassment   
-provider stereotyping or misinterpretation   
- pts not expecting qs  
- Consultation is hurried  
-Language barrier - avoid friends or family 

Role play:

Scenario: A 23yo male presents to your surgery with 2 weeks of discomfort passing urine with an intermittent slight clear urethral discharge and increasing unilateral testicular pain and tenderness over the past 5/7.

Sexual hx – regular asymptomatic partner of 5 months on the pill, initially used condoms but not for last month, last sex 10/7 – vaginal only.

Hx of presenting complaint:  
- sx  
- description eg discharge  
-associated sx  
- bowel or bladder sx, abdo or pelvic pain   
- duration of sx  
- partners  - regular or casual. Regular partner - someone whom they have sex with on a regular basis Casual - someone they do not know or don't intend to have sex again with   
  
- are they sexually active?  
- relationship of appearance of sx to last sexual intercourse or to intercourse with a particular partner   
- condom use  
- type of use eg oral, vaginal or anal, insertive/receptive   
-symptoms or diagnosis or partner   
- other partners in the last 3-6 months   
- sex with same or opposite sex partners   
- partners who were brought up overseas  
- contraception   
-method   
-correct usage   
-previous sti diagnoses   
- what was diagnosed and when   
-how was treated   
- rx of partner

Bbv assessment   
- HIV test before   
- injected drugs or snorted drugs - sharing straws  
- partner is drug user  
- partner from abroad   
- heterosexual man - ever had sex with male.  
- heterosexual women - ever had sex with man who had sex with other men   
- paid for sex or been paid for sex  
- sexual partner suspected of having HIV   
- blood transfusions and tattoos 

Past gynae hx:

-LMP  
- associated menstrual abnormalities

-PMHx  
- serious medical conditions and operations   
- smear hx

Drug hx

Social hx – drugs and alcohol