

BUYING CONDOMS

PURPOSE OF THE EXERCISE:

The function of this task, is to discover how awkward it can be for many people (and thus also for clients in care) to buy condoms. The task can be made more difficult by adding “you are buying condoms for anal sex”.

TIMING:

This exercise is carried out in two lessons. During the second lesson you will need at least 10 minutes for each couple of students.

HOW TO CONDUCT THE EXERCISE:

1. With a fellow student you will go to a pharmacist sometime next week.
2. One of you will go to the counter and ask for a condom for anal use. The other student will observe the behaviour of his/ her fellow student, of the pharmacist and maybe the reactions of other clients.
3. You will then go to another pharmacist, where you repeat this instruction. But now the roles change: the observer becomes the client, the client becomes the observer.
4. In the following discussion you will share your experiences. Your experience of the exercise is the starting point for the discussion. Try to imagine the thoughts and emotions of a youngster who wants to buy these condoms (or anything that has a taboo on it).

BACKGROUND:

There is often an emotional element to condoms. For instance, youngsters may find it difficult to carry condoms on them. They can be afraid it may create an (unjust) image as if they want to have sex with anyone, anywhere. Buying condoms is difficult for many people. It's obvious this is an important obstacle when you try to educate healthy sexual behaviour. If you don't buy condoms, you cannot use them.