Acceptability and feasibility of an integrated HIV self-testing (HIVST) service delivery model in Queensland

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13% of QLD MSM never tested for HIV (GCPS, 2017)

HIVST compliments a suite of HIV testing options

- Pre-test discussion
- Linkage to care and notification

Acceptability and feasibility of integrating HIVST into a community led service model

HIVST Service Delivery - Rationale
HIVST Service Delivery – Integrated Service Model

Target Audience
Gay and other MSM
Never tested or infrequent testers
Regional and remote location

Recruitment strategy comparison
Feb-April 2017
Grindr & Squirt
Aug-Oct 2017
Facebook

Recruitment pathways
- RDS / Word of mouth
- Gay apps and media
- Non-gay apps and media
- HIV organisations / awareness
- Facebook

Ordering
- On-line with registration and consent

Pre-test information choice
- Option 1 Kit posted with no peer contact
- Option 2 Kit posted after peer initiated contact with client
- Option 3 Kit posted after client initiated contact with peer

Advice and information support
- PLHIV organisation telephone contact
- Reactive HIVST result
- PLHIV Peer Navigation Support
- HIV health service e.g, GP
- Non-reactive HIVST result
- Opt-in three monthly testing reminder

HIV status

Linkage to PLHIV org. support and other services

HIVST Service Delivery - Website
Order Your HIV Self-Testing Kit - Queensland Positive People

https://www.qpp.org.au/self-testing
**Target Audience**

**Regional and remote location**
- 71.9% reside in ‘Major QLD city’ (71.7% MSM)
- 1.4% from ‘Remote’ or ‘Very Remote QLD’ (1.5% MSM)

**Gay and other MSM**
- 65% MSM or bisexual male (n=329)
- Av. 5.8 male partners in previous 6 months, range 0 - 222

**Never tested or infrequent testers**
- 38.3% - never tested (30.4% MSM)
- 23.9% - >12 months (23.7% MSM)

**Age distribution**
- 20-29 yrs: 47.4% (44.4% MSM)
- 30-39 yrs: 27.7% (29.2% MSM)

**HIVST Service Delivery – Preliminary results**

**To 30 September 2017**

- HIVST kits ordered: 630 - QLD 516
- HIVST kits sent: 506
- Non-QLD 87 (14.1%)

- Gay and other MSM: 65% MSM or bisexual male (n=329)
- Av. 5.8 male partners in previous 6 months, range 0 - 222

- Never tested or infrequent testers:
  - 38.3% - never tested (30.4% MSM)
  - 23.9% - >12 months (23.7% MSM)

- Age distribution:
  - 20-29 yrs: 47.4% (44.4% MSM)
  - 30-39 yrs: 27.7% (29.2% MSM)

**Target Audience - Area of residence**

- Key:
  - 0
  - 1
  - 2
  - 3
  - 4
  - 5
  - 6
  - 7
  - 8
  - 9
  - 10
  - 11
  - 12
  - 13
  - 14
  - 15

- Areas marked with different colors indicate varying numbers of HIVST kits ordered and sent.
HIVST Service Delivery – Preliminary results

Target Audience - Area of residence

- Percentage of HIVST kits sent by area of remoteness and quarter

- Recruitment sources:
  - 38.6% Internet searches
  - 29.3% Word of mouth / RDS
  - 18.7% Gay Apps and “Pink Press” Inc. 11% Grindr
  - 15.1% Facebook (one post on World AIDS Day)
  - 5.6% HIV Community organisations / awareness websites

* multiple responses allowed
HIVST Service Delivery - Preliminary Indications

Reasons for testing

**HIV test**
- 46.4% Condomless sex
- 34.7% Never had an HIV test
- 36.5% Regular HIV test

**HIVST**
- 79.3% Convenience
- 47.2% Don’t have to wait for results
- 33.3% Don’t have to talk about sex
- 30.9% Don’t have to go anywhere else
- 23.6% Fear of stigma

* Multiple responses allowed

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HIVST Service Delivery - Preliminary Indications

Participant choice for pre-test information

- **n=481 93.2%**
- n=25 4.8%
- n=10 1.9%

- No contact
- Client initiated
- QPP initiated
HIVST Service Delivery – Preliminary Indications

Follow-up

2 week follow-up telephone call contact success

- 37.0% 1st attempt
- 13.7% 2nd attempt
- 4.4% 3rd attempt
- 44.8% Failed to contact

HIV status

One HIV reactive result - confirmed new diagnosis

Successful navigation to;

- Confirmatory HIV testing
- HIV care & management
- PLHIV Peer Navigation Support

Willingness to pay

Overall 53.5% willing to pay for an HIVST

- Lowest income group (<$50,000) least willing to pay (43.7%)
- Highest income group (> $100,000) most willing to pay (78.4%)

Note: Delays in dispatch >5 days of HIVST kit due to orders over Christmas closure period, unable to contact client requesting pre-test contact, client requested contact in error, Orders submitted during website testing phase.
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No potential conflicts of interest are reported by the authors

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Ethics
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