

Article: Mark Gilbert, Amanda Bonnell, Janine Farrell, Devon Haag, Mark Bondyra, David Unger, Elizabeth Elliot. Click yes to consent: Acceptability of incorporating informed consent into an internet-based testing program for sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections. International Journal of Medical Informatics 2017.

### What is this study about?

During the development of GetCheckedOnline (GCO), we included a step in the testing process for users to provide consent to get tested (which is called “informed consent”).

This page included information usually provided by a doctor or nurse when someone gets tested in a clinic.

In this study, we were interested in seeing what potential users of GCO thought of this step.

### What did we do?

We interviewed 13 people after they tried out an early version of GCO, and asked them questions about the informed consent page.

We also showed them different versions of the page to see what was the best design.

### What did we find?

Generally, people thought the page was important and was meant to protect both themselves and the organization even if they didn't fully understand specific information.

**What this says to me is 'we are protecting you' or 'we are trying to protect you', right? We're here to help you, we're not here to hurt you.**

*Male, 30 years, gay*

People clearly understood that GCO was different than testing in person. Their understanding of the purpose of the page reflected their previous testing or life experiences.

**...when I've done STI tests before I've come across some of these questions like saying that yes I know what I'm getting into, yes I know what I'm getting tested for, this and that ... so it wasn't that new to me, these questions.**

*Female, 22 years, bisexual*

How the page was designed was important both for showing the seriousness of the informed consent step, and to avoid just clicking a box to get to the next step.

**Whenever iTunes updates it you just scroll to the bottom and you check this off and go. If you had to go through and check all of this stuff off you probably would be a little more cautious and read some of this stuff.**

*Female, 22 years, bisexual*

### Why is this important?

We've shown that it's possible to collect informed consent in an online testing service and that users think it's an important thing to do – both of which are related to how the page is designed.

Nowadays it is becoming more common for people to get health care online without speaking to a doctor or nurse. Our findings should help others who are designing these services.



**GETCHECKED  
ONLINE**