

Scaling up an online STI and HIV testing program in British Columbia

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E-Health 2017



BC Centre for Disease Control

The context: STIs on the rise





- Increasing rates of sexually transmitted infections (STI) in BC
- People facing numerous barriers to accessing testing
- Public Health STI clinics closed in some regions
- BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) clinics reaching maximum capacity

Harness digital technology to...

- Improve sexual health by getting more people testing more often to diagnose infections faster
- Reduce barriers to accessing testing, especially for populations at greater risk of infection
- Increase STI clinic capacity & make better use of clinician resources





Introducing....GetCheckedOnline



- Providing access to testing for chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, HIV and hepatitis C via the internet
- A "virtual clinic" of the BC Centre for Disease Control in partnership with the provincial Public Health Lab and regional health authorities
- Integrated with current STI clinical and public health practices







2009	
2010	Consultation, scoping, patient engagement
2011	
2012	
2013	
2014	
2015	
2016	
2017	







Scaling up GetCheckedOnline





Scale-up challenges



- Target communities & populations
- Follow-up and treatment of positive diagnoses
- Engaging clinics & physicians, especially in areas lacking public health STI clinics
- Ongoing:
 - Physicians unwilling to give treatment without laboratory report or confirmation of diagnosis
 - Timely access to treatment in some areas

Trends in uptake

To April 2017





Trends in positivity

To April 2017

(16 months)





(14 months)

Trends in positivity

To April 2017





Who's using GetCheckedOnline?



February – December 2016



* Indicates significant at p<0.001

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Are we reaching people at risk?



February – December 2016



* Indicates significant at p<0.001

What do patients think?



I'm not going to drive 40 miles to stand in line hoping I get in...Get Checked Online came on at the proper time... I would be very, very disappointed if it was not available anymore.

I greatly enjoy the online form and anonymity provided in getting tested...I know many people in my town who work at the hospital and clinics and do not always feel my information is confidential.





- Early engagement with clinicians, physicians & private clinics essential to successful expansion
- Service is well-accepted, valued for privacy & convenience
- Reaching people at risk: 1 in 20 testers diagnosed with an STI
- Important regional differences to consider







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Researching Digital Interventions to Improve Sexual Health

www.LoveBytesResearch.ca