

Audit of HIV testing frequency and behavioural interventions policy and practice for MSM in GUMNet clinics in England



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BACKGROUND

Problem:

- MSM at greatest risk of HIV infection in UK¹
- High levels of self-reported unprotected anal intercourse (UAI)²

National guidance for high risk MSM:

- HIV testing: At least annual HIV testing (NICE 2011³)
- Behavioural interventions (BI): 15-20 min 1-1 structured discussions (NICE 2007⁴, BASHH 2011⁵)

AIMS

To evaluate current policies and provision of HIV testing and behavioural interventions for men having sex with men (MSM) in English sexual health clinics compared to national guidance to determine current standard of care and to support development of an enhanced prevention programme for MSM

METHODS

Policy audit

- On-line and telephone questionnaire to 24 sentinel clinic leads from GUMNet to ascertain:
 - BI and HIV testing protocol
 - Risk assessment of MSM
 - Service provision

Notes audit

- Cross sectional audit of HIV testing frequency and BI offer to 598 HIV negative/unknown status MSM over age 16 attending 15 GUMNet clinics from 1st June 2010, followed up over 1 year

SUMMARY

- 71% (17/24) clinics agree UAI as category for high risk
- Structured BI offer does not always match HIV risk
- Low level of structured BI offered, particularly to higher risk MSM
- HIV test offer meets NICE guidance

CONCLUSIONS

There is low level of offer and uptake of BI structured interventions delivered to higher risk MSM- this may be patient driven, or due to lack of training or resource shortage and needs to be investigated and addressed

REFERENCES

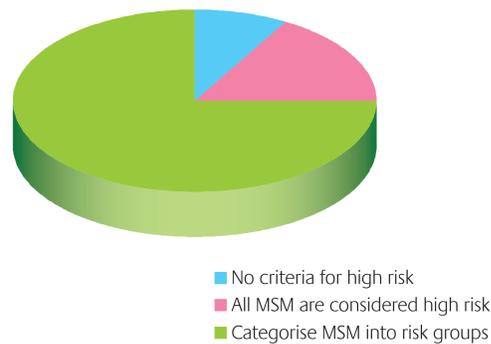
1. Health Protection Agency 2010
2. Lattimore Sex Transm Dis 2011
3. Nat Instit Health Clin Excel 2011
4. Nat Instit Clin Excel 2007
5. Clutterbuck et al IJSTI 2011 (in press)

RESULTS

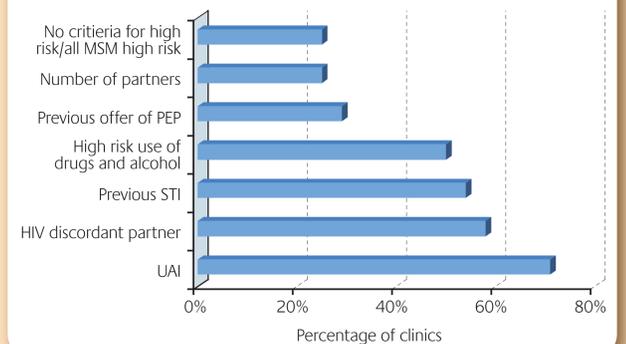
POLICY AUDIT

Risk assessment: 75% (18/24) clinics use risk criteria to categorise HIV negative MSM into high/low risk for HIV infection

Clinics risk assessment

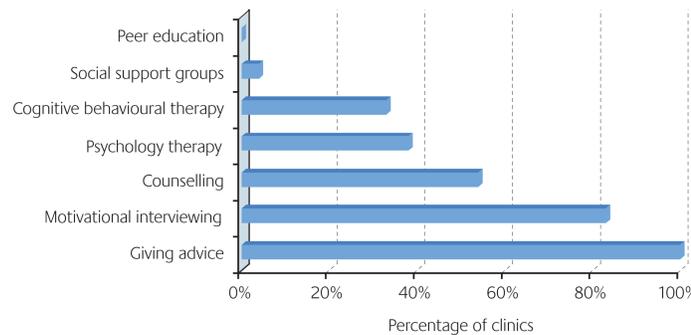


% of clinics using risk criteria



Behavioural interventions: 88% (21/24) clinics offer structured BI excluding simple advice giving

Behavioural interventions offered to MSM by clinics in-house



HIV testing:

- All clinics offer blood serology
- 42% offer Ag-Ab POCT
- 36% offer antibody-only POCT

NOTES AUDIT

- Average age 34 years (range 16-77); ethnicity 76% White/White British, 18% other

Risk behaviour

- 20% (118/598) acute STI in last 6 months
- 33% (199/598) UAI in last 6 months: 62/598 (10%) exclusive receptive, 43/598 (7%) exclusive insertive

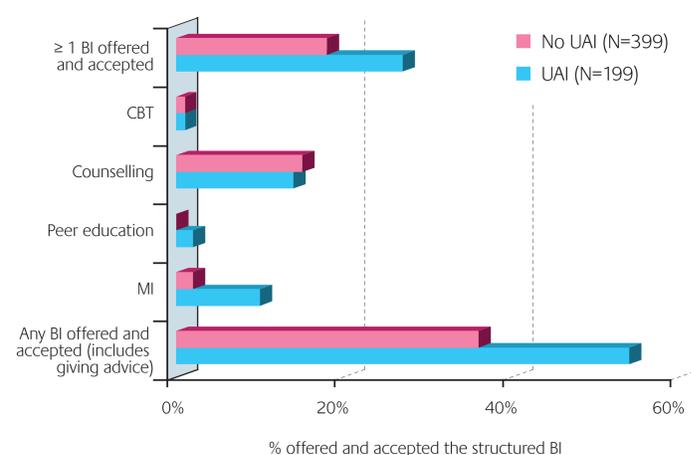
Behavioural interventions

- Recorded for 293/298 (49%) and accepted by 251/598 (42%), commonest counseling (13%)
- Significantly more MSM reporting UAI offered BI, especially motivational interviewing (p=0.0013)

HIV testing

- 85% accepted HIV test
- Average 1.6 HIV tests over 1 year including audited test
- 43% had more than one HIV test over 1 year

Comparison of men who had UAI to men who did not have UAI in last 6 months



GUMNet CLINICS

56 Dean Street, Barts and the London NHS Trust, Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals, Chelsea & Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Florey Unit Centre for Sexual Health, Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Trust, Homerton University Hospital, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, Kings College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Leeds Teaching Hospital NHS Trust, Luton & Dunstable Hospital, Mortimer Market Clinic, Manchester Royal Infirmary, Newcroft Sexual Health Centre, Newham University Hospital, Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust, Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, Patrick Clements Clinic, Royal Hallamshire Hospital, The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust, St George's Healthcare Trust, Trafalgar Clinic for Sexual Health, Whittall Street Clinic, West London Centre for Sexual Health, and Emma Savage and Kathy Lowndes (Health Protection Agency, London)