

HELLO AGAIN ... AND WELCOME to the second edition of the ASSIST quarterly newsletter. For any queries or further information, please contact project manager, Alison: alison.howarth@ucl.ac.uk

Publications

Access to, usage and clinical outcomes of, online postal STI services in the UK

Read [our scoping review](#) (Sumray K *et al* in *Sex Transm Infect* 2022). Key findings:

- Online postal self-sampling (OPSS) services are acceptable to users and can improve choice
- An increasing proportion of STI testing in the UK is occurring via OPSS services
- Service users tend to be predominantly asymptomatic, white, women, over 20, from less deprived areas

Measuring and evaluating sexual health in the era of digital health

Read [our opinion piece](#) (Gibbs J *et al* in *Sexual Health* 2022).

We outline the potential of measuring and evaluating sexual health in the era of digital health, describing where we are, where we have and have not delivered, and providing recommendations for policy practice. We explore the role of digital health within the prevention and diagnosis of STIs/HIV and management of STIs. Drawing on implementation science, we frame this within a theory of change, which illustrates what is required to fulfil the full potential of digital health to improve sexual health and wellbeing, and provide equitable sexual health care globally.

BASHH conference, June 2022



ASSIST and [SEQUENCE digital](#) jointly chaired a panel session with over 150 delegates at the BASHH conference on the lessons learned from implementing digital sexual health in the UK.

Four speakers from the devolved nations gave fascinating perspectives and experiences on *Going Beyond the Test* – covering the decision to introduce OPSS for chlamydia, the context of its introduction, current service delivery (focusing on managing positive test results and partner notification) and their own lessons learned.

Plenary questions raised important issues, including training for future clinicians working in services with online components and the sustainability of in-person clinics amid investment in online service models.

In other news ...

Third case study area

We are delighted that [Sexual Health Sheffield](#) has joined ASSIST as our third case study area. They have offered OPSS since November 2019 and it now accounts for 30% of their activity.

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