

# DIGITAL PARTNER NOTIFICATION SERVICE AT A COMMUNITY-BASED VOLUNTARY COUNSELLING AND TESTING CENTRE FOR MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN: CHECKPOINTLX, LISBON, PORTUGAL



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## BACKGROUND

Access to partner notification (PN) services should be offered in all sexual transmitted infection (STI) testing sites (ECDC, 2015a), especially in those tailored for HIV priority groups (WHO, 2015). PN approaches and implementation do vary across Europe Region (ECDC, 2013b), but recently web based solutions, such as electronic PN for men who have sex with men (MSM) were endorsed (ECDC, 2015b). PN is recommended when participation is both voluntary and anonymous (ECDC, 2015a).

CheckpointLX is a Portuguese, peer-led, community-based voluntary counselling and testing centre for HIV and other STI screening and linkage to care tailored for MSM, recognized as innovative and good practice centre (ECDC, 2013a; WHO, 2015). This centre started CheckOUT in June 2015: a web-based, free, voluntary, anonymous, confidential, client-led PN service, designed according to current recommendations (CDC, 2008; BASHH, 2013; ECDC, 2015a, 2015b; NAT, 2012; WHO, 2015).

## METHODS

CheckOUT is intended to be a tool for anonymous and self-led disclosure of a recent HIV/STI diagnosis or reactive test acknowledged at CheckpointLX, therefore only accessible to MSM attending this centre.

CheckOUT runs on a reserved area of the centre official website. User logins are given to all MSM with recent STI diagnosis or reactive test. User login expires after 30 days and can only be used once. After CheckOUT service instructions page, users do login and then choose the STI to notify, insert partners phone or email, agree with disclaimers and predefined notification wording and submit. Service statistics are stored at website back office (number of users and notifications sent). Since June 2015 all people attending CheckpointLX are asked if they come for testing due to CheckOUT.

Data and outcomes were collected from June 20th, 2015 to April 30th, 2016.

## RESULTS

CheckOUT access was granted to 106 MSM: 25 used it (23.58% of index cases) and informed 168 partners (average of 7 notifications per person). In this period, 21 people sought CheckpointLX for STI's screening reporting CheckOUT notification:

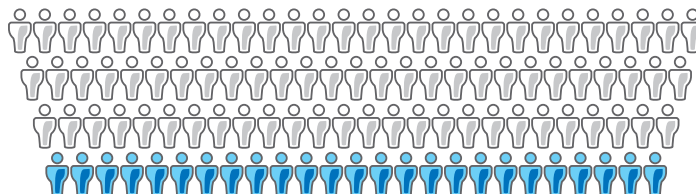
- two of 21 tested had an HIV reactive rapid test (confirmed positive);
- four of 21 tested had a syphilis reactive rapid test (confirmed positive);
- none of 21 tested had a reactive HCV rapid test;
- only 3 men request screening for Chlamydia trachomatis (CT) or Neisseria gonorrhoea (NG) and the results were negative.

All had been tested for HIV in the previous 12 months.

## CONCLUSIONS

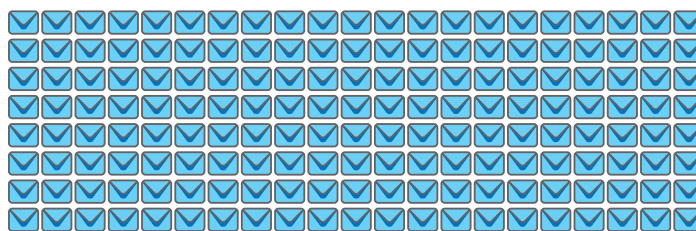
Almost a quarter of MSM index cases used CheckOUT. Overall those notified, 12.5% (21/168) use CheckpointLX for STI testing. The two men with HIV reactive test had syphilis coinfection. PN allowed early diagnosis and linkage to care and potentially prevented new HIV infections.

### 106 MSM with CheckOUT access credentials



25 used it

and sent 168 notifications



21 notified partners  
attended HIV, Syphilis and HCV testing



3 attended CT/NG testing



2 HIV



4 Syphilis



0 HCV



0 CT/NG

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