

INFORMING THE DESIGN OF A DIGITAL INTERVENTION TO SUPPORT STI CARE IN GENERAL PRACTICE: THE VIEWS OF CLINICIANS

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Background: Strengthening STI testing and care in general practice is prioritised in Australian STI strategy. Digital interventions incorporating clinical decision support offer a mechanism to support improvements in STI care. The objective of this study was to explore the views of clinicians toward a digital intervention for supporting STI care in Australian general practice as a first step in the tool's design.

Methods: Semi-structured interviews were conducted with sexual health physicians and general practitioners (GPs) practicing in the state of Victoria, Australia to explore views on a STI digital intervention for general practice. We applied the Theoretical Domains Framework (TDF), a behaviour change framework comprising 14 domains to our analysis. This involved i) directed content analysis of transcripts into TDF domains (eg. environmental context and resources), and ii) thematic analysis to identify sub-themes within relevant TDF domains.

Results: A total of 9 participants (2 sexual health physicians, 7 GPs) were interviewed. All viewed a digital intervention for STI care as acceptable and expressed confidence in its potential to improve STI care processes and address some of the challenges GPs face in providing STI care. Positive views were dependent on end-user needs being met and the clinical context being appropriately addressed. Suggestions for the tool to facilitate improvements in STI care were provided. A digital intervention was also viewed as a means of incrementally educating GPs through continuous engagement with suitable point of care pop-up recommendations and resources.

Conclusion: A digital intervention incorporating clinical decision support was viewed as acceptable for Australian general practice, indicating a possible role for such a tool in this setting. To ensure the tool is appropriate and useful, co-design with a range of end-users and prototype evaluation with health consumers is recommended.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

JSH is supported by a National Health and Medical Research Council Fellowship (1136117). The other authors report no competing interests.