



## NEW HEALTH COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES WORKSHOP

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November, 13:30-17:00

Global Studies Resource Centre, Arts C175, University of Sussex

Clinics for sexually transmitted infections (STI) aim to support people who have infections to contact and notify sexual partners, as well as providing diagnosis and treatment. Informing and treating sexual partners reduces the risk of re-infection within a relationship, and limits onward transmission to others. With the transformation of communication and diagnostic technologies, the ways clinics talk to patients and partners about "partner notification" has changed. In this interdisciplinary workshop we will explore the social, ethical and legal implications of emerging technologies for patients, partners and health services.

- 13:30 | **Opening remarks** – Hayley McGregor (IDS)
- 13:40 | **PRESENTATIONS** - chaired by Alice Linton (ESW)
- 'Partner notification and e-pathways for STI'***
- Jo Gibbs (UCL)
- The development, evaluation and role of online clinical care pathways in sexual health.
- 12:00 | ***'Real-time & reliable partner notification metrics'***
- Anatole Menhon-Johansson (SXT)
- SXT ([www.sxt.org.uk/pn/about](http://www.sxt.org.uk/pn/about)) developed a novel tool that supports provider & patient initiated partner notification (PN), find a local testing service & optimizes the management of the partner. All the health care worker initiated and verified PN activity is captured and presented back to the clinic initiating PN as a real-time dashboard. The SXT platform also records all PN reported by the index patient when they are called at two weeks by the clinic. The index patient reported data and that captured by SXT is combined to report a complete key performance indication of the PN that has been delivered by the service in the last four weeks. The SXT PN tool can be seen at [http://bit.ly/SXT\\_PN](http://bit.ly/SXT_PN)



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14:20 ***'Formalising the casual: The need to understand the difference between sexual partnership types in order to improve clinical practice and epidemiological research'***

Cath Mercer (UCL)

Sexual partnerships differ in their significance not just for the individuals involved in terms of the partnership's social and emotional significance, but also in terms of STI transmission probabilities and clinical outcomes. However, there is a lack of consensus regarding what defines or constitutes different types of sexual partnerships, that is, how does a casual partnership differ from a regular partnership, and how do these definitions vary according to the perspective adopted? This presentation will look at some of these issues and work underway to address them.

14:40 ***'New frontiers in biology: implications for partner notification'***

Jackie Cassell and Larissa Mulka (BSMS)

Phylogenetic analysis allows biologists to track the evolution of a bacterium or virus. When they evolve quickly, genetic information can be used to work out sexual networks. In some contexts, it may even be possible to infer direction of transmission. We are exploring the social and ethical implications of these new diagnostic possibilities to support patients receiving a diagnosis and considering options for partner notification.

15:00 **BREAK**

15:20 **DISCUSSIONS** - chaired by Hayley MacGregor (IDS)

Discussions about the themes raised from different perspectives including law, front line practice and the development sector.

16:45 **Closing remarks** – Jackie Cassell (BSMS)

17:00 **DRINKS RECEPTION**



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