




Kirby Institute




Exploring gay and bisexual men's responses to HIV self-testing

Never Stand Still Medicine The Kirby Institute



Kirby Institute

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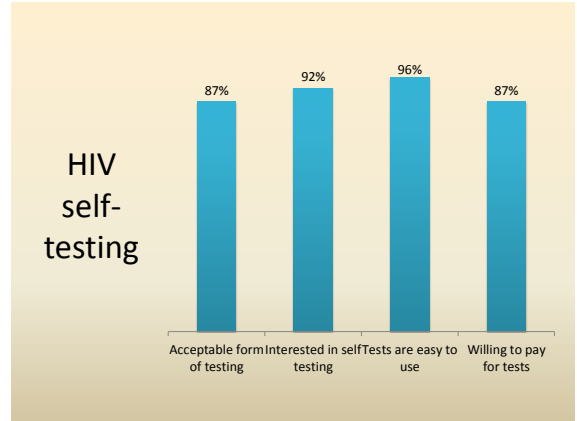

GO FORTH
*HIV TESTING AT HOME
 WHERE NO TEST HAS GONE BEFORE*

We need gay men to trial home HIV testing.

A simple mouth swab gives you a result in 20 minutes.

For all the details visit the FORTH website:

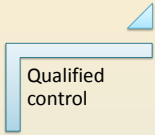
FORTH.ORG.AU

What are men's perceptions of self-testing?

How does self-testing fit within men's existing sexual health routines?

Are there other aspects of self-testing that bear consideration?



Qualified control

"It's kind of a psychological thing where you're just like giving yourself a green tick and you're like, "I'm all good to go!"



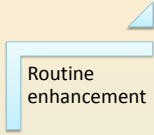
Qualified control

"So, so I had a couple of casual sexual encounters and it was all safe but just to, for my kind of benefit, just to double check."



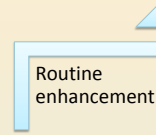
Qualified control

"I mean, there's so many things that we could have done differently, should have done differently, should have waited three months, should have, you know, done it properly but the home testing kit I s'pose gave me the confidence that we were good to go. So I don't blame the tests...I would say it's a good indicator but..."



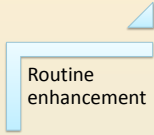
Routine enhancement

"It would, it would just work in conjunction with me going and seeing a GP. So it wouldn't replace the GP visit because they, they test for HIV as well as everything else"



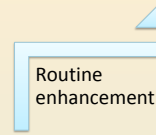
Routine enhancement

"I travel a lot do I don't, that's one thing I found difficult is to do it overseas and I thought that was an interesting thing with these. You could always take one with you I guess. I took them to the UK."



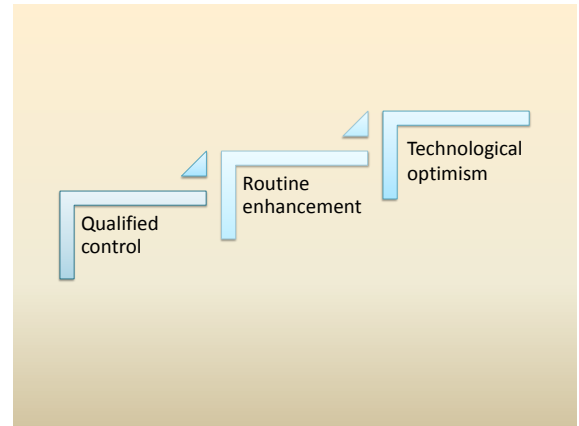
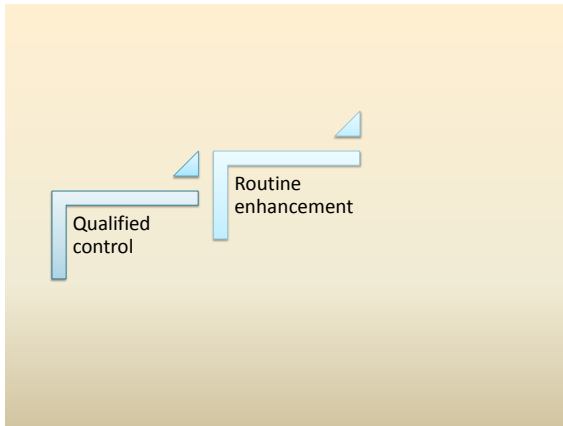
Routine enhancement

"I don't know, to be honest. It would probably be, I mean living in an inner-city area where you've got such easy access to, you know, amazing resources like [clinic name] and doctors who don't, you know, frown upon you if you tell them you're gay...I'm just struggling to sort of see the benefits to myself of the home testing."



Routine enhancement

"It's just the psychological things. Yeah. It shouldn't be any different but it did, to some extent. It make me think about HIV more. Yeah. Because you wanted test, you're on this study and you say, 'Hang on! I really need to look after myself a bit more'."

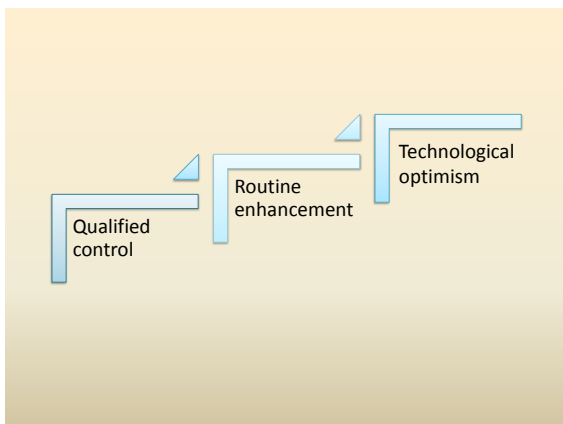


"It's good to know that there are different methods available. I mean it used to be just that, you know, you had to go to the doctor and you were pretty much stuck with that one kind of method. So it's good to know that there are different, you know, there are alternatives."

Technological optimism

"You know, three years ago I was probably more insistent on condoms all the time, you know, checking that it was still on. But I think, you know, with the Swiss Statement and all the stuff that's coming out saying that the guys with undetectable viral load and with PrEP and everything else. I've probably become less anxious about those odd occasions."

Technological optimism



"...it's big for the, for the, what is actually a little test. That the whole box and everything seems to me to be probably not the, the best use of resources."

"...they're like really quite bulky packets of boxes"

"But the only thing I do have is the box size. It's, compared to say other things, other medical devices that you can get, the box is just very bulky and I felt really bad just binning it all 'cause it's a lot of, being, you know, trying to be environmental conscious."

"It's quite bulky, yeah. especially trying to dispose of it. It's like, 'Oh God. Will my neighbour see it?'"

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