The WeFLASH© program
Anonymous sex partners STI notifications

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Background

- 6 000 new HIV infections/year
- 43% MSM
- Increase of STI
- Lack of sexual health information
- Low communication on PrEP
- Decrease in condom use
Despite a combined HIV prevention

30,000 people are unaware of their HIV+ status

- 15,000 on PrEP
- 97% MSM
- At least 30,000 to 60,000 needed to reduce the epidemic
- PrEP provided by physicians mostly in hospital

TasP

PrEP/PEP

Rapid testing

POC

Linkage to care issue
Study: Objectives

1. Identify sexual health-related needs of PrEP key stakeholders, including:
   - PrEPers,
   - physicians,
   - Community counselors,
   - policy-makers

2. Describe their perceived benefits and concerns with WeFLASH©

Acceptability of a digital patient notification and linkage-to-care tool for French PrEPers (WeFLASH©): Key stakeholders' perspectives
International Journal of STD & AIDS, accepted for publication
Methods

Focus group discussions (FGD)
4 FGD with PrEPers (n=21)
2 FGD with counselors (n=10)
Individual interviews
with key expert physicians (n=5)
with policy-makers (n=4)

Recruited by AIDES association in Paris, Lyon, and Nice.
Results: Stakeholders’ needs

PrEPers
Practical, useful, and relevant information on sexual health
  e.g., substance use
A personalized follow-up for PrEPers
Simplified partner notification in case of STI exposure
  In particular for anonymous partners

Physicians
More effective communication between PrEPers, physicians, and mediators
  e.g., need to reduce the time spent on medical questionnaires during consultations

Counselors
Tool that fit their functions and facilitate interactions with PrEPers
  E.g., need to facilitate mediators’ follow-up through time

Policy-makers
Accessible, in-time epidemiological data
  To better orient prevention strategies and interventions
WeFLASH,

What is it?
**Web Site**
- Information about STIs + risk behaviors + addictions
- PrEP eligibility questionnaire
- Interactive map with PrEP centers
- Call-back system implemented to facilitate linkage to care

**The App**
- ANONYMOUS notification system
- Invite sexual partner into PrEP care
- PrEP pill alarm
- Sexual Health and Chemsex management care
- Blood tests and history at the user's disposal

**Web App**
- Consultation Management
- Patient’s Record
- Tracking of vaccination, STI treatments and medical history
WeFLASH – Innovation in Anonymous notifications of STIs

Sync of the user’s blood test results between WeFLASH & the Laboratory

Notification sent if possible exposure to STI or HIV

2 Actions when the request is accepted

The FLASH

Request to join anonymously their sexual network

Linkage-to-care to Sexual Health center
WeFLASH,

Flashing is protecting yourself and caring for your partners!
Results: Concerns with WeFLASH©

Privacy and Confidentiality

• Overall: expectations for a secured network protecting users’ privacy
• Physicians and counselors more concerned than other participants about privacy
• PrEPers concerned about being identified when receiving a notification
  – Suggest notification settings (e.g., time of the day) and confidential wording
Results: Perceived benefits of WeFLASH©

- Enhanced partner notification and screening (PrEPers and policy-makers)
  - No existing tool for partner notification in France
  - Possibility to notify anonymous partners met on hook-up apps

- Customized linkage-to-care (physicians and counselors)
  - Possibility to use smartphone functions and geopositionning to offer useful information on local services

- Transferable data (PrEPers and policy-makers)
  - Possibility to generate and share real-time epidemiological data, useful for policy-makers and users
Results

Fair access
• First launch among PrEPers could empower PrEPers
• Partner notification feature should be expanded to all MSM beyond PrEPers
  – More partners to flash
  – Reduction of stigma

• WeFLASH© is well-adapted for anonymous partners and online hook-ups

• Need to include game-like features when flashing partners
WeFLASH,
The hottest tool to be: Attractive AND Healthy
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