GUMCAD minimum reporting guidance for online services

Supplement to the GUMCAD clinical and technical guidance

Contents

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Glossary

Term	Definition
BASHH	British Association for Sexual Health and HIV
eSHS	Online sexual health service
eHIV	Online HIV and syphilis testing services
GUMCAD	GUMCAD STI Surveillance System
HCW	Health care worker
LA	Local authority (including unitary authorities)
LSOA	Lower Super Output Area
GBMSM	Gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men
Non-specialist	Sexual health service providing non-specialist level 1 or 2 STI-related care (such as sexual and reproductive health or online services)
OSP	Opposite sex partners
PN	Partner notification
PrEP	HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis
pSHS	In person sexual health service
SHS	Sexual health service
Specialist	SHS providing specialist Level 3 STI-related care
SRH	Sexual and reproductive health
STI	Sexually transmitted infection
WSW	Lesbians and other women who have sex with women
UKHSA	UK Health Security Agency

1. Introduction

This guidance provides details of how local authority-commissioned online sexual health services (eSHS) should report data for the GUMCAD STI Surveillance System to the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA).

The number of online consultations has increased significantly since 2020 (following COVID-19), where almost half of all consultations are now conducted online. It is therefore essential that eSHS capture GUMCAD data in a consistent way to ensure continued and effective surveillance of sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing, diagnosis, vaccination, HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) provision and sexual behaviour.

UKHSA recognises that the delivery of an online consultation (that includes a self-assessment by the patient) is not the same as an in-person consultation (that includes an assessment by a health care worker (HCW)) and that eSHS may not be able to take a full sexual history as recommended by British Association for Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH), or provide the full range of services that are available at an in-person consultation.

This guidance outlines the GUMCAD data content that the UKHSA believes is feasible for eSHS to collect as part of a standard online consultation (the 'minimum' data requirement), and which data might only be collected where the eSHS offers more comprehensive services (the 'full' data requirement) (see section 4).

Please note that:

- eSHS that are providing services, included in the 'full' requirement (relating to Partner notification (PN), PrEP and alcohol and drug use), must ensure that data is collected and reported in GUMCAD; the reporting of this data is not optional (where services are being provided)
- BASHH guidelines on how to take a sexual history, including online self-sampling services, should be followed closely: 2019 UK National Guideline for consultations requiring sexual history taking.
- eSHS may also provide SRH-related care alongside STI related care; the provision of online SRH care is not covered in this guidance
- additional GUMCAD guidance documents are also available (see below); send any queries to gumcad@ukhsa.gov.uk

Additional GUMCAD guidance documents
- GUMCAD: starter pack
- GUMCAD: clinical coding guidance
- GUMCAD: data specification and technical guidance
- CTAD and GUMCAD: data submission for STI self-sampling service

2. Online services (eSHS)

There are broadly 4 main types of eSHS based on their commissioning arrangements. An eSHS may provide HIV and STI testing via self-sampling test kits (often referred to as 'home testing') for chlamydia, gonorrhoea, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, HIV, mycoplasma genitalium, syphilis and trichomoniasis. Please see the broad definitions below. If you need any further guidance please contact us at gumcad@ukhsa.goiv.uk

Please refer to Appendix 3 for definitions of STI service levels (1, 2 or 3) and Appendix 4 for definitions of 'dedicated' and 'satellite' clinics.

eSHS definitions

eSHS – Dedicated

An online service that provides Level 2 STI testing via online consultations only and is (generally) accessible by a specific client residence only (defined by the commissioning arrangements).

eSHS (Level 2) are required to report GUMCAD.

eSHS – Satellite

An online service that provides Level 2 STI testing via online consultations, which is run in conjunction with a dedicated in-person SHS that also provides standard in-person consultations.

eSHS (Level 2) are required to report GUMCAD.

eChlamydia

An online service that only provides Level 1 chlamydia (and gonorrhoea) testing, which may be associated with the National Chlamydia Screening Programme.

eChlamydia Level 1) are not required to report GUMCAD.

eHIV

An online service that only provides Level 1 HIV (and syphilis) testing, which may be associated with the National HIV and Syphilis Self-sampling Service Framework.

eHIV (Level 1) are not required to report GUMCAD.

3. Consultations

A consultation is broadly defined as an interaction between a client (patient) and a SHS (in-person or eSHS) for the provision of STI or SRH care. Please see the broad definitions below: if you need any further guidance contact us at gumcad@ukhsa.goiv.uk

Consultation medium

In-person

A client attends a SHS in-person for the provision of STI or SRH care via an assessment by a HCW, including testing, treatment, vaccination, contraception and any other STI or SRH related care.

An in-person attendance solely for the collection of condoms or a self-sampling test kit is not classified as a 'consultation' and is excluded from GUMCAD reporting; self-sampling tests should only be reported once samples have been returned for testing.

Online

A client accesses an eSHS online (from a personal device such as a mobile phone or laptop) for the provision of STI or SRH care via a self-assessment by the client, including testing (via an online self-sampling test kit), treatment, PrEP provision and contraception.

An online request solely for a self-sampling test kit is not classified as a 'consultation' and is excluded from GUMCAD reporting, self-sampling tests should only be reported once samples have been returned for testing. Please see the CTAD and GUMCAD: self-sampling guidance for online services for further details.

Telephone

A client contacts a SHS by phone for the provision of STI or SRH care, including telephone triage (where a client may be advised to attend in-person or is referred to an eSHS) or telemedicine (where the consultation is conducted via a camera such as 'facetime').

A phone call solely to book an appointment is not classified as a 'consultation' and is excluded from GUMCAD reporting.

A phone call or text message from the SHS to the client to provide results is not classified as a 'consultation' and is excluded from GUMCAD reporting.

4. GUMCAD data: online requirements

GUMCAD includes 7 distinct aspects of an episode of care. A majority of data should be collected by all eSHS as part of a standard online consultation, deifned as the 'minimum' data requirement. However, some data might only be collected where the eSHS offers more comprehensive services, defined as the 'full' data requirement.

The 'minimum' and 'full' online data requirements are summarised below and in Appendix 1.

GUMCAD episode of care

Clinic

Information about the eSHS where the client is accessing care. All clinic data is included in the 'minimum' data requirement.

Patient demographics

Information about the client. All demogrpahic data is included in the 'minimum' data requirement.

Patient episode

Information about the client's consultation relating to testing, diagnosis and vaccination. All episode data is included in the 'minimum' data requirement.

Sex partners

Information about the client's sex partners. All sex partner data is included in the 'minimum' data requirement.

Partner notification (PN)

Information relating to PN follow-up. All PN data is included in the 'full' data requirement.

HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)

Information relating to the provision of PrEP. All PrEP data is included in the 'full' data requirement.

Alcohol and drug use

Information relating to the client's alcohol and recreational drug use. All alcohol and drugs data is included in the 'full' data requirement.

GUMCAD data requirements

Minimum

All eSHS should be able to report the 'minimum' data requirement via a standard online consultation (see Appendix 1).

It would be acceptable to collect some of the data in relation to each of the sections on sex partners (if it is not possible to collect all of the data from each section).

Full

Some eSHS may also be able to report some, or all, of the 'full' data requirement where they provide more comprehensive services (see Appendix 1).

It would be acceptable to collect some of the data in relation to each of the sections on PN, PrEP and alcohol and drug use (if it is not possible to collect all of the data from each section).

Please note that:

- eSHS that are providing services included in the 'full' requirement (relating to PN, PrEP and alcohol and drug use), must ensure that data is collected and reported in GUMCAD; the reporting of this data is not optional (where services are being provided)

GUMCAD submissions

Submissions

Each GUMCAD submission should include all of the GUMCAD data items (see Appendix 1).

eSHS that are not able to collect data for any of the GUMCAD data items ('minimum' or 'full') should include the data item (column) in their submission and report the data as 'Not Applicable'.

Appendix 1. GUMCAD data requirements (minimum and full)

eSHS are encouraged to report as much GUMCAD data as possible. All eSHS should report the 'minimum' data requirements and those providing more comprehensive services should also report the 'full' data requirements. eSHS that are not able to collect any of the 'minimum' or 'full' data requirements should report the associated data item as 'Not Applicable'.

Note that eSHS that are providing services included in the 'full' requirement (relating to PN, PrEP and alcohol and drug use) must ensure that data is collected and reported in GUMCAD; the reporting of this data is not optional (where services are being provided).

Table 1. GUMCAD data requirements (minimum and full)

GUMCAD data item				
Position [note 1]	**Name**	**Description**	**Online requirement**	**Suggested coding [note 2] [note 3]**
Clinic				
1	ClinicID	Clinic ID (ODS code)	Minimum	Defined by ODS
2	Clinic_Type	Type of SHS	Minimum	Online: 03
Patient demographics				
3	PatientID	Local patient ID	Minimum	Defined by eSHS
4	Patient_Type	Type of patient (prisoner or sex worker)	Minimum	as collected
5	Gender_Identity	Gender identity	Minimum	as collected
6	Gender_Birth	Is gender identity the same as gender assigned at birth?	Minimum	as collected

GUMCAD data item				
Position [note 1]	**Name**	**Description**	**Online requirement**	**Suggested coding [note 2] [note 3]**
7	Age	Age in years	Minimum	as collected
8	Sex_Ori	Sexual orientation	Minimum	as collected
9	Ethnicity	Ethnicity	Minimum	as collected
10	Country_Birth	Country of birth	Minimum	as collected
11	LA	Local authority of patient residence	Minimum	as collected
12	LSOA	Lower Super Output Area of patient residence	Minimum	as collected
Patient episode				
13	Consultation_Referral	Source of the patient's consultation	Minimum	Self-referral: 1082321000000109
14	Consultation_Date	The date samples are returned	Minimum	as collected
15	Consultation_Medium	The medium the consultation is conducted in	Minimum	Online: 07
16	Consultation_Type	The consultation type ('new' or 'follow-up')	Minimum	as collected
17	Consultation_Speciality	Specialty of the consultation (the type of services provided)	Minimum	STI care: 02
18	Consultation_PN	Is the consultation due to PN follow-up (is the patient a PN contact)?	Minimum	as collected
19	Consultation_Symptomatic	Is the consultation due to a symptomatic infection?	Minimum	as collected

GUMCAD data item				
Position [note 1]	**Name**	**Description**	**Online requirement**	**Suggested coding [note 2] [note 3]**
20	Episode_Activity	Test and diagnosis coding	Minimum	as collected [note 4]
21	Diagnosis_Confirmed	Confirmation of diagnosis	Minimum	as collected [note 4]
22	Diagnosis_Site	Site of diagnosis (genital, pharyngeal or rectal)	Minimum	as collected [note 4]
23	Diagnosis_Treated	Treatment of diagnosis	Minimum	as collected [note 4]
Sex partners: Opposite sex partners (OSP) – same sex men (men who have sex with men (MSM)) – same sex women (women who have sex with woment (WSW))				
24	OSP	How many OSP have they had in the last 3 months?	Minimum	as collected
25	OSP_New	Were any of these new sex partners (they hadn't had sex with them before)?	Minimum	as collected
26	OSP_CL	Did they have condomless penetrative sex the last time they had sex?	Minimum	as collected
27	MSM	How many same sex male partners (MSM) have they had in the last 3 months?	Minimum	as collected
28	MSM_HIV_Pos	Did they have penetrative sex (insertive or receptive) with someone known to be HIV positive in the last 3 months?	Minimum	as collected

GUMCAD data item				
Position [note 1]	**Name**	**Description**	**Online requirement**	**Suggested coding [note 2] [note 3]**
29	MSM_CL	Did they have condomless penetrative sex (insertive or receptive) the last time they had sex?	Minimum	as collected
30	MSM_CL_Rec	Did they have condomless penetrative receptive sex in the last 3 months?	Minimum	as collected
31	WSW	How many same sex female partners (WSW) have they had in the last 3 months?	Minimum	as collected
32	WSW_New	Were any of these new sex partners (they hadn't had sex with them before)?	Minimum	as collected
Partner Notification (PN)				
33	PN_Date	Date PN follow-up was initiated	Full	Null (blank)
34	PN_Partners	How many partners were known?	Full	NA: not applicable
35	PN_Contacts	How many partners were contactable?	Full	NA: not applicable
36	PN_Contacts_Att_Rep	How many partners were reported to have accessed STI care within 4 weeks of PN_Date?	Full	NA: not applicable
37	PN_Contacts_Att_Ver	How many partners were verified to have accessed STI care within 4 weeks of PN_Date?	Full	NA: not applicable

GUMCAD data item				
Position [note 1]	Name	Description	Online requirement	Suggested coding [note 2] [note 3]
PrEP				
38	PrEP_Eligibility	Eligibility criteria for accessing PrEP	Full	NA: not applicable
39	PrEP_Uptake	Was the offer of PrEP accepted or declined?	Full	NA: not applicable
40	PrEP_Regimen	What PrEP regimen was prescribed?	Full	NA: not applicable
41	PrEP_Prescription	How many PrEP tablets were prescribed?	Full	NA: not applicable
42	PrEP_Stop_Reason	If PrEP has been stopped, what was the reason?	Full	NA: not applicable
Alcohol and recreational drug use				
43	Alcohol_1	Was alcohol use assessed?	Full	NA: not applicable
44	Alcohol_2	Was alcohol use assessed as problematic?	Full	NA: not applicable
45	Drugs_Used	Have any recreational drugs been used in the last 3 months (Drugs_1 to Drugs_16)?	Full	NA: not applicable
46	Drugs_1	Amphetamine or speed	Full	NA: not applicable
47	Drugs_2	Benzodiazepines (non-prescribed)	Full	NA: not applicable
48	Drugs_3	Cannabis	Full	NA: not applicable
49	Drugs_4	Cocaine	Full	NA: not applicable
50	Drugs_5	Crack	Full	NA: not applicable

GUMCAD data item				
Position [note 1]	**Name**	**Description**	**Online requirement**	**Suggested coding [note 2] [note 3]**
51	Drugs_6	Crystal meth or methamphetamine	Full	NA: not applicable
52	Drugs_7	Ecstasy (E)/MDMA	Full	NA: not applicable
53	Drugs_8	GHB/GBL	Full	NA: not applicable
54	Drugs_9	Heroin	Full	NA: not applicable
55	Drugs_10	Ketamine	Full	NA: not applicable
56	Drugs_11	Novel psychoactive substances	Full	NA: not applicable
57	Drugs_12	Mephedrone (M-Cat)	Full	NA: not applicable
58	Drugs_13	Methadone	Full	NA: not applicable
59	Drugs_14	Poppers	Full	NA: not applicable
60	Drugs_15	Solvents or glue	Full	NA: not applicable
61	Drugs_16	Any other recreational drug	Full	NA: not applicable
62	Drugs_Inject	Were any recreational drugs injected in the last 3 months?	Full	NA: not applicable
63	Drugs_Share_Eqp	Was any equipment shared with anyone else when injecting drugs?	Full	NA: not applicable
64	Drugs_Sex	Were they under the influence of recreational drugs the last time they had sex?	Full	NA: not applicable

Notes

Note 1: refers to the horizontal position of the data item within the GUMCAD dataset (csv file).

Note 2: 'As collected' refers to the data (coding) collected during the patient consultation.

Note 3: 'NA' refers to the the data (coding) from eSHS only collecting the 'minimum' data requirement; those collecting the 'full' data requirement should report the data 'as collected' during the patient consultation.

Note 4: please refer to the GUMCAD and CTAD: data submission for STI self-sampling services for further information on episode activity coding.

Appendix 2. Full data requirements, suggested questions

UKHSA recognises that the delivery of an online consultation (that includes a self-assessment by the patient) is not the same as an in-person consultation (that includes an assessment by a HCW), and that eSHS may not be able to take a full sexual history as recommended by BASHH, or provide the full range of services that are available at an in-person consultation.

We have suggested a list of simple questions below for parts of the GUMCAD episode of care that can be used by eSHS to enable the colletion of some of the key data included in the full data requirement.

GUMCAD episode of care

Partner notification (PN)

Patients diagnosed with an STI should be offered partner notification (PN) follow-up, so their sex partners can be contacted and offered STI testing.

Suggested questions:

- how many sex partners have you had recently?
- how many of these sex partners can be contacted (so they can be advised to seek testing)?

PrEP

HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) involves the use of antiretroviral medicines in individuals who are HIV negative to reduce the risk of acquiring HIV infection. PrEP is recommended for those at higher risk of HIV acquisition and a comprehensive risk assessment is required to identify those who are likely to benefit.

Please note that these questions are designed for eSHS that are not providing PrEP services, those that are providing PrEP services should collect the full PrEP data requirements (see Appendix 1 data items 38 to 42).

Suggested questions:

- what is your current HIV status (positive – negative – not known)
- are you currently taking PrEP?
    - if yes, are you taking PrEP daily or only when you have sex?

Alcohol and recreational drug use

Patients should be assessed in relation to their alcohol and recreational drug use. Recreational drug use is defined as the use of any illicit psychoactive substance.

Suggested questions:

- were you under the influence of recreational drugs when you last had sex?
- have you taken any of the following recreational drugs in the last 3 months?
    - cocaine
    - crystal meth (methamphetamine)
    - GHB/GBL
    - ketamine
    - mephedrone (M-Cat)

Alcohol and recreational drug use

Appendix 3. STI service levels

The STI care provided by each SHS is categorised into levels (1, 2 or 3), which are defined by the complexity of the care the service provides.

- eChlamydia are classified as Level 1 (non-specialist)
- eHIV are classified as Level 1 (non-specialist)
- eSHS are classified as Level 2 (non-specialist)

Table 2. Definition of sexual health service (SHS) levels

SHS provided (summary) [note 5]	Level of service		
	1 (Non-specialist)	2 (Non-specialist)	3 (Specialist)
Sexual history taking and risk assessment	✓	✓	✓
Signposting to appropriate sexual health services	✓	✓	✓
Chlamydia screening (opportunistic screening in sexually active asymptomatic males and females aged 25 years and under)	✓	✓	✓
STI testing and treatment of asymptomatic infections (excluding gonorrhoea and syphilis) in women and men (except MSM)	✓	✓	✓
PN of STIs or onward referral for PN	✓	✓	✓
HIV testing (including pre-test discussion and giving results)	✓	✓	✓
Point of care HIV testing (validated and rapid HIV test, with positive results confirmation or referral for confirmation)	✓	✓	✓
Screening for hepatitis B and hepatitis C and vaccination for hepatitis B in at risk groups	✓	✓	✓
Sexual health promotion (provision of verbal and written sexual health promotion information)	✓	✓	✓
Condom distribution	✓	✓	✓
Assessment and referral for psychosexual problems	✓	✓	✓

SHS provided (summary) [note 5]	Level of service		
	1 (Non-specialist)	2 (Non-specialist)	3 (Specialist)
STI testing and treatment of symptomatic but uncomplicated infections (including gonorrhoea) in women and men (except MSM)	✘	✓	✓
STI testing and treatment of MSM	✘	✘	✓
STI testing and treatment of men with dysuria and genital discharge	✘	✘	✓
STI testing and treatment of STIs at extra-genital sites	✘	✘	✓
STIs with complications	✘	✘	✓
STIs in pregnant women	✘	✘	✓
Gonorrhoea cultures and treatment of gonorrhoea	✘	✘	✓
Recurrent conditions	✘	✘	✓
Management of syphilis and blood borne viruses	✘	✘	✓
Tropical STIs	✘	✘	✓
Specialist HIV treatment and care	✘	✘	✓
Provision and follow up of HIV post-exposure prophylaxis following sexual exposure (PEPSE)	✘	✘	✓
Provision and follow up of PrEP	✘	✘	✓
STI service co-ordination across a sexual health network	✘	✘	✓

Key

✓	SHS provided
✘	SHS not provided

Note 5: please review the full BASHH guidance Standards for the management of STIs.

Appendix 4. Clinic definitions (dedicated and satellite)

In-person – pSHS

Dedicated

A clinic with its own dedicated sexual health premises, providing Level 2 or Level 3 STI care, that is (generally) open Monday to Friday (5 days a week or more) and is (generally) accessible by all members of the public.

Satellite

A clinic hosted at premises not dedicated to sexual health, that is open infrequently (less than 5 days a week) and may be targeted at a specific patient group. For example, a dedicated clinic sets-up a satellite clinic at a local college which is open one evening a week and is targeted at college students.

Online – eSHS

Dedicated

An online service that provides Level 2 STI care via online consultations only and is (generally) accessible by a specific patient residence (defined by the commissioning arrangements).

Satellite

An online service that provides Level 2 STI care via online consultations; the online service is provided by a dedicated pSHS that also provides standard in-person consultations.

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UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) prevents, prepares for and responds to infectious diseases, and environmental hazards, to keep all our communities safe, save lives and protect livelihoods. We provide scientific and operational leadership, working with local, national and international partners to protect the public's health and build the nation's health security capability.

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