

16th Annual Conference of the
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National HIV Nurses Association

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The importance of the relationship with healthcare teams in the first year of diagnosis in men who have sex with men

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Background

- ▶ There a few qualitative studies exploring the experiences of MSM in first year following diagnosis
- ▶ Meta-synthesis of qualitative papers revealed only 4 studies that report on first year of diagnosis



Why do we need this research?

- ▶ To assist with providing more focused support to MSM in first year of their diagnosis
- ▶ To understand whether a new diagnosis of HIV in MSM is coherent with the changing discourse of HIV as a long term condition



Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis

(Smith, Flowers and Larkin 2009):

- ▶ The participant as expert
 - ▶ Semi-structured interviews
 - ▶ Purposive sample
 - ▶ MSM diagnosed in previous 3 months
 - ▶ a 'fairly homogenous sample' (Smith et al 2009)
 - ▶ Sample size
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- ▶ Recruitment – voluntary and charitable organisations
 - ▶ Ethical considerations



Participants

9 participants

Age Range: 28 – 42 years of age

Time since diagnosis: 4 weeks - 12 weeks

White British



Themes:

- ▶ HIV Identity
- ▶ Lifestyle changes – immediate and future
- ▶ Relationship with healthcare team



Diagnosis delivery:

She sat me down gave me a hug and said don't worry and I was struck by it. I mean I came away sort of thinking if this is the sort of healthcare I'm going to get now then I'm quite happy with it.

Sam, 39

- ▶ I seemed to be having to remember to fill in forms or something but then there was, there was a kind of, I was tested on the Saturday and he said “Oh you might have to come back for your blood work because it’s a Saturday and I’m not sure if there a Doctor in” but then he said “Actually I don’t know I’ll go and find out” and then he came back and said “We can actually do it all now” so I went straight from seeing in him to seeing, err I think she might have been called a Health Advisor or something where she put lots of stuff into a computer and she took me through various things and then I saw a nurse and she did, she did and she did all my bloods and I can’t remember how many it was a ridiculous number of forms and blood

I just want to say if you're gonna ring someone make sure you've got time to see them that day because you've now left me that you can't see me until Monday. Fine what option have I got, I've got to make an appointment for Monday pause so you're gonna leave me Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday without telling me any results.

Anthony 38



Locus of Control

I had to write everything down to try and remember what to do and when to do it and how to do it, it's sort of things you want to know

Giles 41

We talk a lot but I am willing to do what ever it takes. Whatever they tell me to do, they're the experts

Harry 32



Team work

I can tell that he's not happy if I disagree with him and he tries to tell me what to do but I stick to my guns. I wish he would work with me.

Paul 37

She talks me through every result and asks what I think about them. She will give me options and it feels like she treats me like an adult

Jack 28

Future Strategies

From a health point of view I think that it needs to get more personal but not preaching or patronising

Mike 42

We always talk about the future but not in a “What if?” kind of way. She always reminds me of how long I can be well or live for and she asks me what I want to do next.

Sam 39

Conclusion:

Health Professionals on the whole I think are, are doing an excellent job

Daniel 29

Thank you

