





SPOTLIGHT ON STAKEHOLDER SUCCESS

GetCheckedOnline: Better access to testing for sexually-transmitted & blood-borne infections

 <p>PATIENT</p>	<p>INCREASED ENGAGEMENT</p>	<p>87% of people testing through GetCheckedOnline (GCO) report that they test earlier and more often than they would if they were testing through a regular clinic or healthcare provider [n=789, 2022 survey of regular GCO users]. This corresponds to a 22% higher frequency of testing compared to patients attending the Provincial sexually transmitted infection (STI) Clinic at British Columbia Centre for Disease Control (BC CDC) (n=19,497). This also corresponds to new sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections (STBBI) diagnoses, including chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, HIV and hepatitis C, across 6% of all GCO testing episodes within the last 3 years.</p>
	<p>ENHANCED EXPERIENCE</p>	<p>In a 2022 survey of regular GCO users (n=789):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11% reported they would not have tested if GCO had not been available for STBBI testing. • 32% did not have a usual place they were comfortable going to get tested by a healthcare provider. • 33% did not have a family doctor or nurse practitioner. • 52% found it hard to get tested by a healthcare provider when they needed to get tested. • 41% of testers reported that STBBI testing through GCO reduced financial burdens related to lost pay, lost hours at school, and/or transportation costs. • 97% of GCO testers reported that they were satisfied with the service. • 88% strongly agreed that they would recommend the service to others. <p>“GetCheckedOnline (GCO) is a great option for people wanting to access regular testing for STIs. It allows for anonymity in testing, which can help encourage testing for folks who may feel self-conscious or stigmatized and who otherwise may not feel comfortable being seen in person in a more traditional clinic setting. Having an online account-based service also allows clients quick and easy access to their test results for their own records, as well as for sharing with partners, especially if they’ve tested using a pseudonym (fake name).”</p> <p>- Lindsay Barton, Clinical Nurse Educator, Provincial STBBI Clinic Clinical Prevention Services Department British Columbia Centre for Disease Control</p>
	<p>ENHANCED EQUITY</p>	<p>A 2022 survey of people who live outside of Metro Vancouver (n=1,658) and who had tested through GCO (n=324/1658) indicates the program is reaching equity-seeking populations: 13% of GCO testers identified as Indigenous (First Nations, Inuit or Metis) and 14% identified as transgender. Use of GCO was significantly higher among people of colour (vs. white), gender minority (vs. men), transgender (vs. cisgender) and sexual minority (vs. heterosexual) participants. In a separate 2022 survey of regular GCO testers (n=789), >50% indicated a sexual identity other than heterosexual, including gay, bisexual, queer and pansexual. Program data from 2022 (n=10,635) also demonstrates that GCO enables greater access to testing overall, with 22% of GCO users reporting never having previously tested for STBBI. In the 2022 survey of regular GCO testers, 51% reported it was difficult to get tested by a provider when they needed to and 86% agreed they tested sooner and more often through GCO, thus underscoring the enhanced access enabled by GCO.</p>
 <p>CLINICIAN</p>	<p>ENHANCED TIME EFFICIENCY</p>	<p>“For clients looking for routine testing, GetCheckedOnline (GCO) is a fantastic tool. Many clients are experienced testers and do not require the services of a physician or nurse. This frees up valuable and often scarce clinician resources to focus on clients with significant STI needs, such as those who are symptomatic or looking for preventative STI care such as HIV PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) initiation.”</p> <p>- Natalie Holgerson, Clinical Nursing Supervisor, Provincial STBBI Clinic Clinical Prevention Services Department British Columbia Centre for Disease Control</p>
 <p>HEALTH SYSTEM / ADMINISTRATION</p>	<p>ENHANCED RESOURCE UTILIZATION</p>	<p>10-fold more patients managed by 1 full-time equivalent (FTE) nurse through GetCheckedOnline (3000 GetCheckedOnline visits/months) compared to equivalent nursing time in the Provincial STI Clinic at the BC CDC (300 tests/months).</p>
	<p>MAINTAINED QUALITY</p>	<p>Patients testing through GetCheckedOnline (n=257) have rates of treatment (99%) and engagement in partner notification (97%) that are equivalent to patients attending the Provincial STI Clinic at the BC CDC (n=514). Thus, reassuring clinicians (and patients) that the quality and connection to care is similar for GCO compared to in-person clinical services and that there is no loss of clinical quality or safety of STBBI testing services delivered by the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control.</p>
 <p>PAYOR</p>	<p>DECREASED HEALTHCARE COSTS</p>	<p>Micro-costing analyses demonstrated the overall cost of testing through GCO decreased as utilization increased: cost per test decreased from \$23.85 CDN in fiscal year 2019/20 (April 1, 2019-March 31, 2020) to \$16.00 CDN in fiscal year 2020/21 (April 1, 2020-March 31, 2021). These costs are inclusive of labor, software development, training and capacity-building, and promotion.</p> <p>\$2.4 million CDN in avoided testing costs expected from April 2025 through March 2026. A testing visit through GCO costs an average of \$38.93 CDN less compared to testing through the Provincial STBBI clinic or similar public health STI clinic. If the current increasing rate of utilization is maintained, it's expected that 62,313 tests will be conducted in fiscal year 2025/26 (April 1, 2025- March 31, 2026), with a cost avoidance of \$2.4 million CDN should those same tests have been conducted in person at an STI clinic.</p>