

Figure 3. Consensus recommendation on partner notification auditable outcome measures (*colour key same as Figure 2)

All to be stratified by sex partnership type: Committed vs New Relationship vs One-Off, with possible modifications of terminology and addition of sex work category.

STEP 1: Elicitation of sex partners

-Proportion of index cases who have the total number of sexual contacts by partnership type documented for the appropriate look-back period for the STIs

No change

STEP 2: Establishing contactable sex partners

-Proportion of index cases who have the outcome of total number of contactable sexual partners by partnership type documented along with agreed contact actions, or the decision not to contact them

No change

STEP 3: Notifying sex partners

-Number of contactable sexual partners notified by partnership type as reported by the index case reported and also verified by the health care workers.

Reasoning

This measure was considered to be important to enable assessment of variation in contactable partners' notification by clinic settings and types, patient groups, and type of STIs, and its impact on PN success, as well as to provide insight into the service-level workload.

(See Appendix 4 for definitions of key terminology).

STEP 4: Sex partners' testing

-Total number of sexual contacts by partnership type who accessed a clinic/received a service in person or online as reported by the index case and also as verified by a healthcare worker.

-Total number of sexual contacts by partnership type who were tested for STI as reported by the index case and also as verified by a healthcare worker

Reasoning

The expert group felt that previously sexual health service 'attendance' was a proxy for contacts having all the STI tests done and being treated if needed. However, in the context of increase in antimicrobial resistance, epidemiological treatment, home/online testing etc, there is a need for measures that account for both accessing services and getting tested.

In this context, both index patient reported and health care worker verified measures to capture the nuances of these outcomes was considered important to document.

STEP 5: Sex partners' treatment

-Total number of sexual contacts treated by partnership type as reported by the index case and also as verified by a healthcare worker.

Reasoning

Treatment rates were considered essential to capture, though it was pointed out that the performance standards for this outcome will vary by STI type due to issues related to epidemiological treatment etc. Lastly, the expert group also felt that although useful, the collection of data on positivity rate among contacts may be difficult. However although may not be possible to use this as an auditable outcome, clinics may wish to record this information for their own benefit.