EVALUATION OF eHEALTH VIDEOS FOR THE SINGAPOREAN GAY, BISEXUAL, AND QUEER MALE COMMUNITY

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You are receiving this invitation to participate in this study as a user or patron of the services rendered by our community partners. Your participation is entirely voluntary, and you may withdraw from this study at any point without any penalty.

This study is interested in finding out more about the effectiveness of health-related online content targeted at young gay, bisexual, and queer (GBQ) men in Singapore. Specifically, among Singaporean (citizen or PR), self-identified gay, bisexual, or queer men, aged 18 to 29 years old who are HIV-negative or do not know their HIV status. Should you not fall within these criteria of respondents, you may choose to stop your participation at this point.

The results of this study will contribute to the pool of research on the social and cultural aspects of physical and psychological health and well-being among gay, bisexual, and queer men in Singapore, and may be shared with organizations or policy makers to positively impact and/or inform policies or interventions that affect gay or bisexual men.

For purposes of administration and follow-up, our non-governmental organization (NGO) partner, Action for AIDS Singapore (AFA) will collect and have access to your contact details based on your chosen preferred mode of communication upon enrollment in this study. No member of the research team will have direct access to your personal identifiers.

While the staff at AFA will assist the research team in managing the trial and its participants, no member of the AFA team will have access to your survey responses, which will be collected by the research team instead. This is done so that your responses will never be directly linked to your personal identifiers. Upon your agreement to participate in this study, you will be assigned a participant ID, which will be used for all future correspondences between AFA and the research team.

This research study has been approved by the National University of Singapore Institutional Review Board with respect to the treatment of individuals participating in this research.

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Purpose of this research study
The study aims to follow participants across six (6) months to find out more about the changes in their health behaviours in response to receiving health-related online content at the start of the study period. Specifically, we will be evaluating the efficacy sexual health interventions that are tailored for gay, bisexual, and queer men in the Singaporean context.

Procedures
Recruitment
We estimate that we will require a total of 300 participants for the study. Study participants will be enrolled in the trial through direct (advertising through online portals) and indirect (through venue or NGO partners) recruitment. Participants will be followed-up on for a period of six (6) months from the point of their baseline survey, which includes a 1-week evaluation period from the start of the trial, and a survey at the 3-month and 6-month mark, from the start of your participation in the trial.

Enrolment into study and verification of eligibility
Participants follow the recruitment link provided on the online advertisement or physical flyer to a Surveymonkey (independent survey software service provider) site where they will be asked for their contact details and some basic demographic information to register their intent to join the cohort and for verification of eligibility by the NGO partner, AFA. Only AFA will have access to your contact information. This is a deliberate attempt to delink your behavioral survey responses from any personal identifiers.

Baseline survey
Thereafter, a staff member at AFA will contact eligible participants to provide them with their participant ID, and to formally invite them to participate in the trial through the completion of the first online baseline survey. This survey will be hosted on an online survey administration software (e.g. Surveymonkey) and will take about 15 to 20 minutes to complete. Participants will be prompted to enter their participant ID at the start of the survey so that upon completion, the research team will be able to notify the team at AFA on the completion of the survey, which will allow for direct disbursement of the $15.00 reimbursement to participants.

Randomization and assignment of treatment
The online content that we hope to evaluate for this study includes an online sexual health e-pamphlet and a series of sexual health videos. All participants will have access to both components by the end of the trial.

Upon agreement to join us in our trial, a computer will then randomize and allocate each person into one of two possible groups, like the flip of a coin. Neither the researcher nor the participant can decide which treatment the participant receives.

As mentioned above, you will be randomly assigned into one of two possible groups. The only difference between either group would be your access to the series of sexual health videos.

Regardless of your assigned group, you will be required to complete the videos and/or read through the e-pamphlet within 1 week following the completion of your baseline survey. A link will be provided 1 week after you have been given the interventions that will lead you to a survey page with a few questions to evaluate your understanding of the interventions' content.

A staff member at AFA will contact you upon successful completion of the baseline survey to provide you with a link to the assigned intervention. The same staff member will contact you again 1 week after that to provide you with the proof of completion survey. This quiz should take no longer than 5 to 10 minutes to complete.

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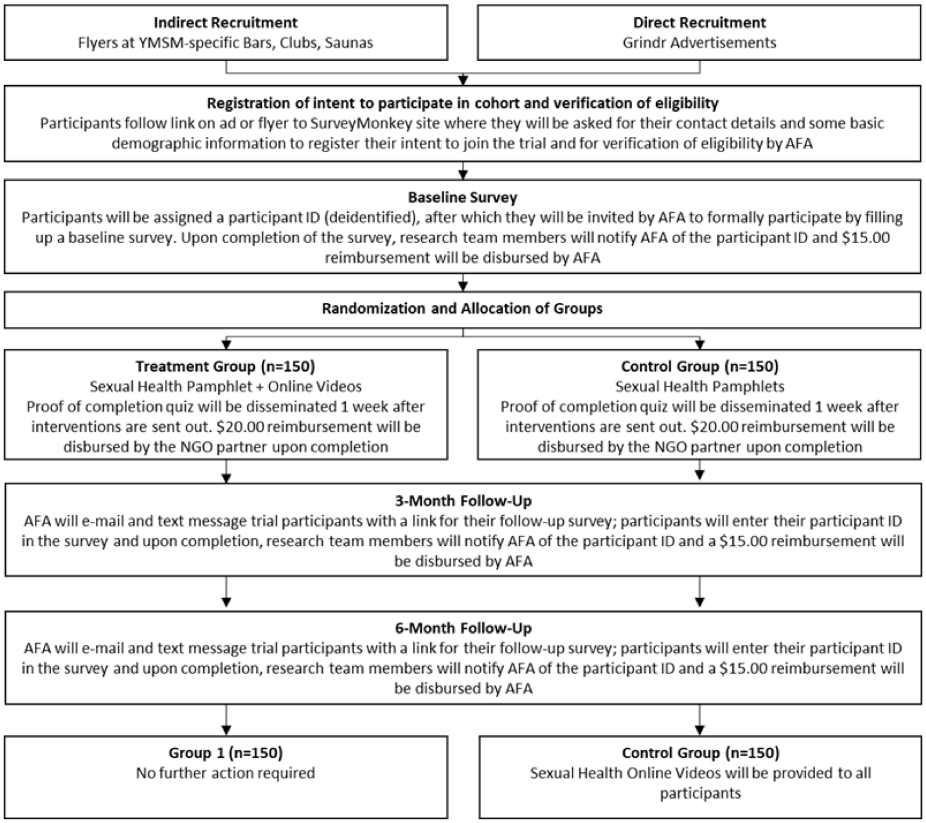
Follow-up surveys
At the 3-month and 6-month marks from participation, a staff member at AFA will contact all eligible participants to continue with their follow-up surveys. Like the baseline survey, the 2nd and 3rd surveys will be hosted on an online survey administration software (e.g. Surveymonkey) and will take about 10 to 15 minutes to complete. Participants will be prompted to enter their participant ID at the start of the survey so that upon completion, the research team will be able to notify the team at AFA on the completion of the survey, which will allow for direct disbursement of the $15.00 reimbursement to participants, for both the 2nd and 3rd follow-up surveys.

Administration of survey and follow-up procedures
All participants will only ever be in contact with the study team's NGO partner, AFA, to protect the anonymity of all participants. The study team will not have access to any of the contact details provided at any point and only the NGO partner will contact participants to fill up the survey online. A participant ID will be issued to participants so that both the research team and NGO partners may refer to the same deidentified number for purposes of administration.

A summary of all study-related procedures may be found in the flow chart below:



Possible risks or benefits
The potential risks of taking part in the surveys are minimal. Some questions may reveal criminal activity on the part of participants due to the Misuse of Drugs Act and Section 377A of the Penal Code, but risks are mitigated as the research team will do its best to ensure that personal identifiers will not be directly linked to survey responses. Some questions could make participants feel uncomfortable, but any participants may choose to skip any question or drop out of the study without any penalty at any point in time.

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The data collected will be relevant for public health practitioners, program managers, and policy makers in the field of HIV prevention, specifically in decision making and evidence-based policy making processes.

Compensation
Participants will receive reimbursement for their participation and successful completion of each of the three surveys that will be administered at the baseline ($15.00), 3-month ($15.00), and 6-month ($15.00) mark of the study. Participants will also receive reimbursement ($20.00) upon successful completion of the assigned modules.

Right of refusal to participate and withdrawal
Your decision whether or not to participate is completely voluntary and will not affect your current or future relations with any institution. If you decide to participate, you are free to withdraw at any point by informing the NGO partner and all your data will be discarded.

Confidentiality
Responses will be confidential, as data will only be published or shared with collaborators (e.g. community and NGO partners) in its aggregated form, and not as individual responses that may risk the identification of participants. Data will be kept password-locked in Qualtrics, or in a password-locked dataset or spreadsheet at all times. As the survey is solely disseminated through our community and NGO partners' existing contact lists, the researchers have no direct access to respondents of this survey. Only the principal investigator and the thesis supervisor will have access to the eventual dataset. Upon completion of the research study, the NGO partner will destroy all documents containing personal data of the participants to further protect their identities.

Contact Details
In the interest of your anonymity and confidentiality for your participation in this study, you may contact Action for AIDS at (+65) 6254 0212, should you have any questions or require any clarification about the study procedures, how the results will be utilized for research, and for more information on the findings of the study, if available.

If you have been enrolled in the study but had forgotten your assigned Participant ID, please get in touch with the staff member that contacted you during enrolment to request for your Participant ID. Alternatively, you may contact Action for AIDS at (+65) 6254 0212 and request to speak to the Pink Carpet Y cohort manager.

Should you wish to contact the research team, you may approach the principal investigator (Tan Kay Jin Rayner), by phone at (65) 9187 8576 or by e-mail (Rayner.tan@u.nus.edu).

For an independent opinion regarding the research and the rights of research participants, you may contact a staff member of the National University of Singapore Institutional Review Board (Attn: Dr Chan Tuck Wai, at telephone (+65) 6516 1234 or email at irb@nus.edu.sg).

Participant's Declaration

I understand that participation is voluntary. Refusal to participate will involve no penalty. I may discontinue participation at any time without penalty or loss of accrued benefits (benefits are accrued in proportion to the amount of study completed or as otherwise stated by the researcher) to which I am otherwise entitled. I declare that I am at least 18 years of age. If I am affiliated with the National University of Singapore, my decision to participate, decline, or withdraw from participation will have no effect on my status at or future relations with the National University of Singapore. I have read and fully understood the contents of this form, and hereby give consent to the National University of Singapore to collect, use and disclose and/or process my responses for the purpose(s) described in this form.

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By clicking the "Continue/Next" button, I consent to participate in this study and agree to all of the above.

If you do not wish to participate in the survey, you may close the browser now to exit.

[Next Button]

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