

# Identifying MSM-competent physicians in China: a national online cross-sectional survey among physicians who see male HIV/STD patients

Presented by: Peipei Zhao

Research Assistant & Social Worker

Shenzhen Nanshan Center for Chronic Disease Control

APACC, Hong Kong

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深圳市南山区慢性病防治院  
SHENZHEN NANSHAN CENTER FOR CHRONIC DISEASE CONTROL



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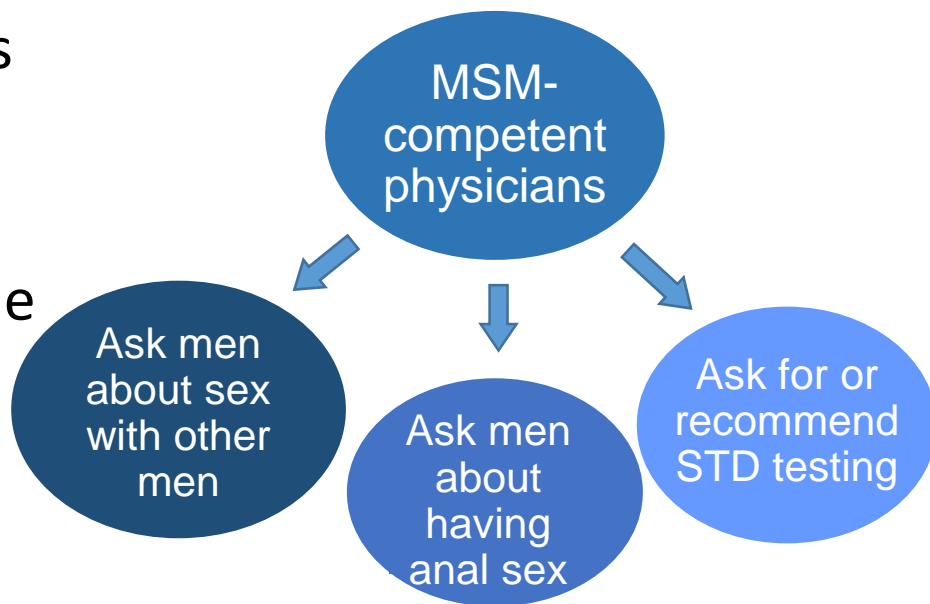


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# Background

- HIV prevalence among MSM is high in China.
- MSM had difficulties in getting competent health services in clinics due to lack of specific healthcare for MSM and social stigma.
- MSM-competent physicians is defined based on clinical behaviors in our research.
- We aimed to understand the clinical competency of physicians and explore the related factors.

Figure 1. Definition of MSM-competent physicians



# Method

- **Eligibility Criteria**

- Physicians;  
Currently living in China;  
Saw at least one male STD patient in the past 12 months

- **Recruitment Duration**

- August 14-23, 2017

- **Recruitment Platform**

- One of the largest online medical counseling platform

- **Measurement**

- Demographic information; workplace information; clinical behavior when seeing male patients; attitudes towards MSM; interest in contributing to MSM clinical services



# Results

- **501** physicians participated.
- **267** physicians had seen at least one MSM patient in the past 12 months.
- **161** out of 267 (60.3%) physicians were MSM-competent last time seeing the MSM STD patients.

**Table 1. Socio-demographic characteristics of physician participants (N=501)**

Characteristics	Total	
	n	%
<b>Age (years) Mean: 37.6 ± 8.2</b>		
≤30	110	22.0%
31-40	244	48.7%
>40	147	29.3%
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	376	75.0%
Female	125	25.0%
<b>Education</b>		
Associate degree	36	7.2%
Bachelor degree	198	39.5%
Master degree	216	43.1%
PhD degree	51	10.2%
<b>Specialty</b>		
Dermatovenereology	166	33.1%
Urology	151	30.1%
General medicine	72	14.4%
Proctology	41	8.2%
Others	37	7.4%
Infectious disease	34	6.8%



# Results

- MSM-competent physicians showed **no socio-demographic differences** compared with non MSM-competent physicians.
- Physicians' attitudes towards MSM were not related with being MSM-competent.
- MSM-competent physicians were more likely to work in medical institutions where **free condom and lubricants** were available and more likely to work in institutions where **STD pamphlets and educational materials** were available.

**Table 2. Factors associated with being a MSM-competent physician (N=267)**

	OR (95%CI)	aOR (95%CI)
<b>Proctoscope or anoscope available</b>		
Yes	1.85(0.99-3.47)	2.03(1.06-3.87)*
No	Ref	Ref
<b>Free condom and lubricants available</b>		
Yes	1.96(1.19-3.22)**	2.01(1.21-3.34)**
No	Ref	Ref
<b>STD prevention pamphlets or educational materials available</b>		
Yes	3.09(1.70-5.61)***	3.10(1.68-5.73)***
No	Ref	Ref
<b>Physicians' attitudes towards male homosexual</b>		
Positive attitude	Ref	Ref
Neutral attitude	1.38(0.78-2.43)	1.43(0.81-2.55)
Negative attitude	1.30(0.60-2.83)	1.24(0.55-2.82)



# Conclusions

- A diverse sample of physicians from different subspecialties and medical institutions in China met criteria for competent physicians for MSM.
- Future interventions should focus on developing MSM clinical competency and expanding services that meet the needs of MSM.



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## Co-authors:

Bolin Cao,  
Cedric H. Bien-Gund  
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# Thank you!



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