

# Remote psychosocial intervention in primary care services offered to men: What are best practices?



Guilmette, D., Tremblay, G., Gingras-Lacroix, G. et coll. (2022).

#### Context



Decree of the state of health emergency in QC.

Immediate effects on the **accessibility** of front-line services.

Increase in the use of **ICT**s to provide frontline psychosocial services.

## **Objective**

Document the use of **remote psychosocial intervention** in primary care services offered to men in order to identify the **best practices** to adopt, in the context of a pandemic and post-pandemic.

### Methods

**Qualitative** research design Group and individual interviews



#### **Participants**

Service providers managers (n=13) and practitioners (n=32)

Service users

male (n=52)

#### Results

**Face-to-face**: preferred mode of consultation for both providers and users (men) of front-line psychosocial services.

Remote intervention is **well perceived** and seems **more acceptable** than before the pandemic among service providers and service users (men).

Many men consider the two modes of consultation as equivalent, while others prefer to consult remotely.

Beyond their preference, men want to have **the choice** of the mode of consultation.

**Practitioners are more reluctant** than services users toward the use of remote intervention.

✓ Related to their **beliefs** (effectiveness, etc.) and to their **comfort** with the use of ICT.



- Improved **accessibility** to services
- Secure environment for service users
- **Efficiency** gains
- **Fewer absences**, fewer interruptions in follow-ups
- Offers additional and complementary tools



- Lack of human contact
- Digital divide
- Confidentiality issues
- Communication issues
- Technical difficulties

## **Best practices**



- Develop and offer academic and continuous training on best practices in remote intervention.
- Offer the **choice** of the mode of intervention.
- Loan equipment (tablet, computer, etc.) to service users who do not have access to it.
- Provide simple and accessible
  documentation in advance to service users
  on the operation of the software used.
- Accompany men **who feel less competent** with the use of the ICTs used.
- Ensure that men make a **free and informed choice** (adapt documentation, explain advantages and disadvantages, etc.).
- Minimize the risks of breach of confidentiality (conducive environment, secure platforms, etc.).
- Have a plan in case of an emergency or crisis.
- Have a plan in case of technical difficulties.

#### Acknowledgments

We want to thank all of the participants who took part in this study.

This study was made possible by a grant from the Quebec Ministry of Health and Social Services.

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