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This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 643736
Data Sources

• Interviews and focus groups
  – Evaluating mHealth technology in HIV to improve Empowerment and healthcare utilisation: Research and innovation to Generate Evidence for personalised care (EmERGE)
  – Horizon 2020 (2015-2020)
    • Section: Health, demographic change and wellbeing
    • Topic: Self management of health and disease: citizen engagement and mHealth
• The Chemsex Study: Sigma research, LSHTM
• ‘Edit Profile’ – play by Dex Bailey

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‘App-based’ practices

• Law et al. (2014), following Latour (1991), describe modernity as enacting a *bias for purity*
• Contrasted with a disposition to focus on practices, characteristic of Science and Technology Studies (STS).
• They refer to processes of combining practices as syncretism (a term taken from anthropology and religious studies)
• empirically explore the ‘messiness’ or *modes of syncretism* that bring about coherence or its alternative, which in their terminology is *noncoherence*.
• We use these concepts to describe two discrete assemblages through which drugs are made digital in order to explore their coherence and noncoherence.
‘A bias for purity’
This project has received funding from the European Union’s Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement no 602108
Asking patients

• Do you have a smartphone?
  • Do you use apps?
• What kind of apps do you use?
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Paul: 2 guys playing, wanna join (a series of sexy and explicit photos).

Paul: into chems?

Paul: wanna join us?

Paul: about time you did then.

Paul: near the heart in hand

Darren: WOW great pics, sorry just got your message, you still playing?

Darren: yeah

Darren: never had a threesome

Darren: sounds fun. where are you guys?

Darren: on my way

‘Edit Profile’ by Dex Bailey
### TABLE 1  Drugs commonly associated with chemsex among gay men

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME OF DRUG</th>
<th>STREET NAMES</th>
<th>HISTORY</th>
<th>DELIVERY</th>
<th>EFFECTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mephedrone</td>
<td>Meow Meow, MCAT, plant food</td>
<td>A class B drug that has been illegal in the UK since 2010. It has been popular in the UK since 2008, when it first reached the UK market as a “legal high”.</td>
<td>Swallowed in tablet form, snorted as a powder, injected, or administered rectally (‘booty bumping’).</td>
<td>Euphoria, enhanced appreciation for music, elevated mood, decreased hostility, improved mental function and sexual stimulation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GHB/GBL</td>
<td>G, Gina, liquid ecstasy</td>
<td>Gammahydroxybuturate (GHB) and GBL gammabutyrolactone (GBL) have closely related effects. Both are class C drugs.</td>
<td>Swallowed in small liquid doses, or added as a powder to a soft drink. Occasionally injected.</td>
<td>Euphoria, lowered inhibitions, increased sex drive. Often used to boost the effect of other drugs. Relaxant effects can make receptive anal intercourse easier or more pleasurable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crystal methamphetamine</td>
<td>Crystal, tina, meth, ice, T</td>
<td>Essentially a more pure form of methamphetamine (a stimulant). Class A drug.</td>
<td>Smoked in a glass pipe, snorted as a powder, mixed with water and injected or administered rectally.</td>
<td>Euphoria, increased energy during sex or dancing, enhanced confidence, feelings of invincibility and impulsivity, reduced experience of pain, intense sexual stimulation, and lowered inhibitions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sigma Research, ‘The Chemsex Study’ p.9
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• ‘Edit Profile’
• Mediation of a drug economy
• Problematic or facilitative
• A smartphone mediated drug economy
• Coherent for some
• Potentially non-coherent for others
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Connect Login

Email

Password

Login

Forgot your password, you can reset it here.
Connect Mobile

My Medicines

My Results

My Appointments

Activities

My Account

Last updated - today at 2pm
My Medicines

Stribild
(One tablet, once per day)

Check Interactions
### My Results

**Blood Results** 12.09.14

### Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Viral Load</td>
<td>Undetectable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Less than 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD4 Count</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liver Function</td>
<td>Normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidney Function</td>
<td>Normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cholesterol/Lipids</td>
<td>Normal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Turing Pharmaceuticals CEO Martin Shkreli defends HIV drugs price hike

22 September 2016 Last updated at 10:42 BST

The head of a US drugs company has defended his company's decision to raise the price of medication used by Aids patients by over 5,000%.

Turing Pharmaceuticals acquired the rights to Daraprim in August, raising the price of a dose from $13.50 (£8.70) to $750 (£484.40).

Speaking to CBS News, CEO Martin Shkreli said the company was "charging the right price that the markets and prior owners missed" and that they will use the money from sales to research new treatments.

Read more
US pharmaceutical company defends 5,000% price increase
App-based health practices

• Moralities of (noncoherent) drug economies
• Mediated via smartphone app
• Apps-based practices as relational
• Recognition of a ‘bias for purity’
• Noncoherent yet confluent
• Different drugs, different drug economies
• One bloodstream

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Thank You

Any Questions?