



Smartphone mediation of digital drug economies: the case of HIV/AIDS medication and Chemsex

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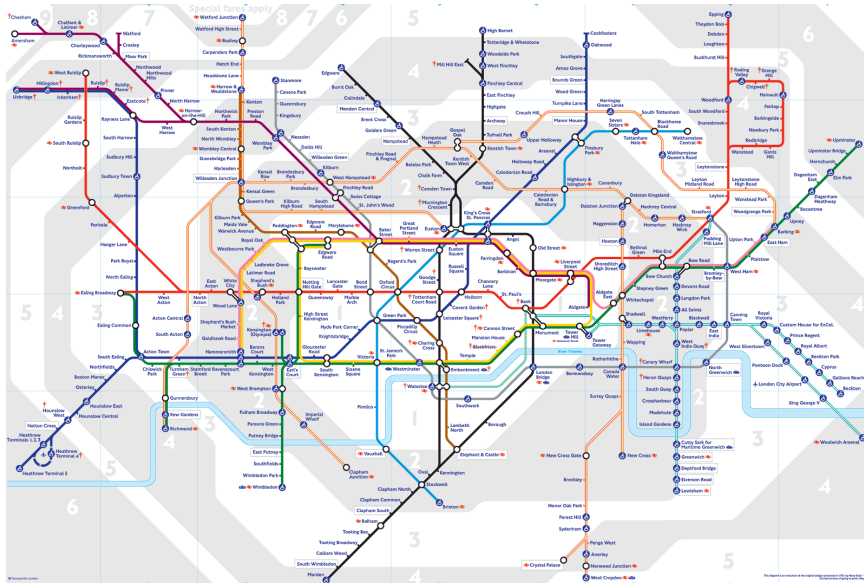
- Interviews and focus groups
 - Connect App (2012-2015) Gilead Foundation
 - **Evaluating mHealth technology in HIV to improve Empowerment and healthcare utilisation: Research and innovation to Generate Evidence for personalised care (EmERGE)**
 - Horizon 2020 (2015-2020)
 - Section: Health, demographic 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



- 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'



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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*

NAME OF DRUG	STREET NAMES	HISTORY	DELIVERY	EFFECTS
Mephedrone	Meow Meow, MCAT, plant food	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”.	Swallowed in tablet form, snorted as a powder, injected, or administered rectally ('booty bumping').	Euphoria, enhanced appreciation for music, elevated mood, decreased hostility, improved mental function and sexual stimulation.
GHB/GBL	G, Gina, liquid ecstasy	Gammahydroxybutrate (GHB) and GBL gammabutyrolactone (GBL) have closely related effects. Both are class C drugs.	Swallowed in small liquid doses, or added as a powder to a soft drink. Occasionally injected.	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.
Crystal methamphetamine	Crystal, tina, meth, ice, T	Essentially a more pure form of methamphetamine (a stimulant). Class A drug.	Smoked in a glass pipe, snorted as a powder, mixed with water and injected or administered rectally.	Euphoria, increased energy during sex or dancing, enhanced confidence, feelings of invincibility and impulsivity, reduced experience of pain, intense sexual stimulation, and lowered inhibitions.

Sigma Research, 'The Chemsex Study' p.9

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News and events

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Thursday 13 August 2015, 12:56pm

Warrants executed to clampdown on the supply of the drug Meow Meow – Force-wide



Thames Valley Police has carried out a number of warrants at addresses across the Thames Valley and London at about 6am this morning (13/8) as part of an operation to clampdown on the supply of the drug known as M-Kat or Meow Meow (Mephedrone).

More than 100 officers executed the warrants under The Misuse of Drugs Act at 11 addresses.

- ‘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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My Results



My Appointments



Activities



My Account



Last updated - today at 2pm



My Medicines

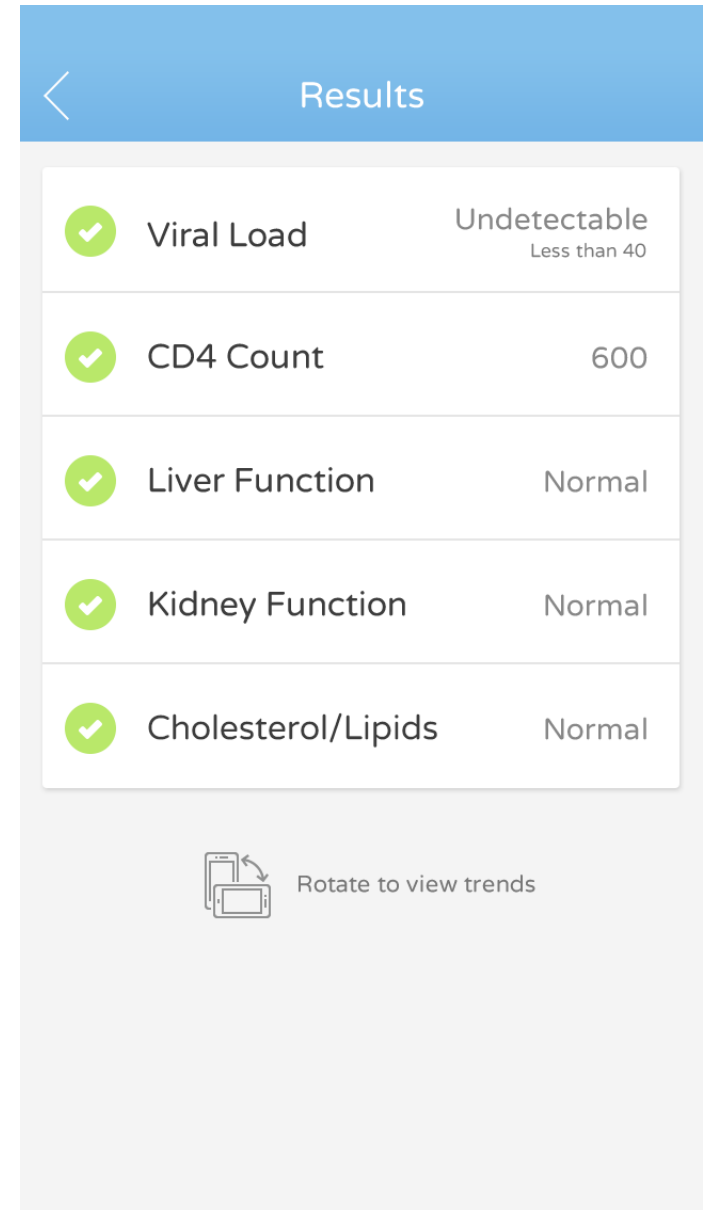
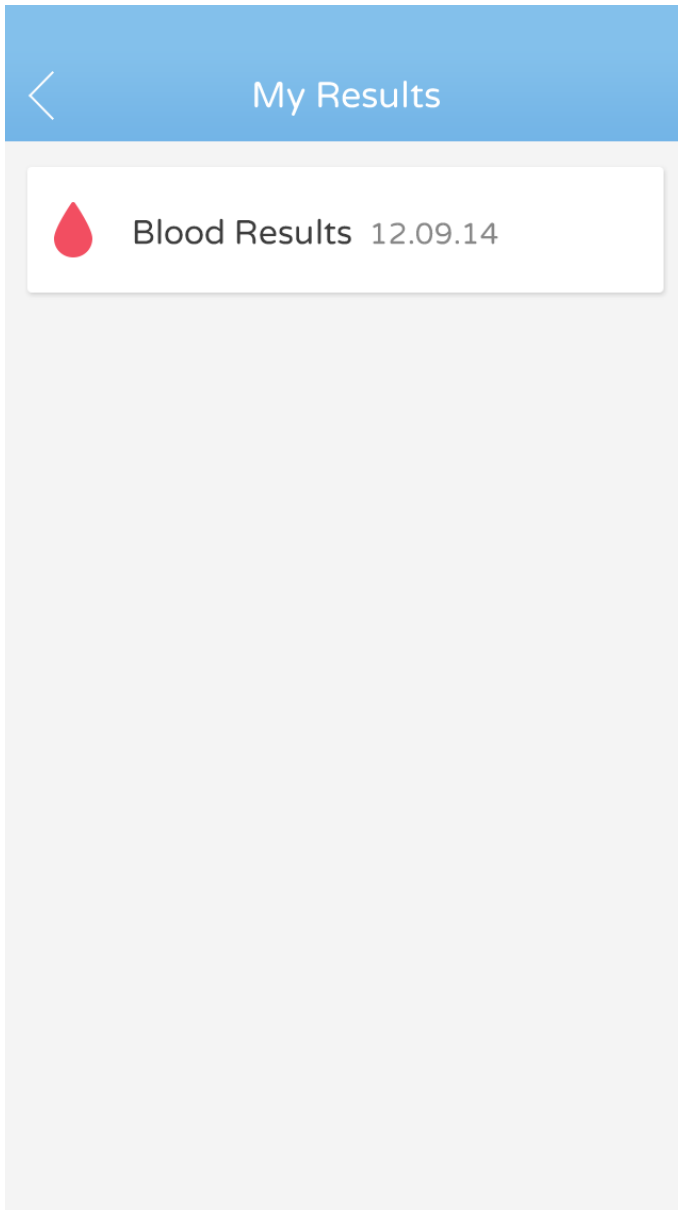
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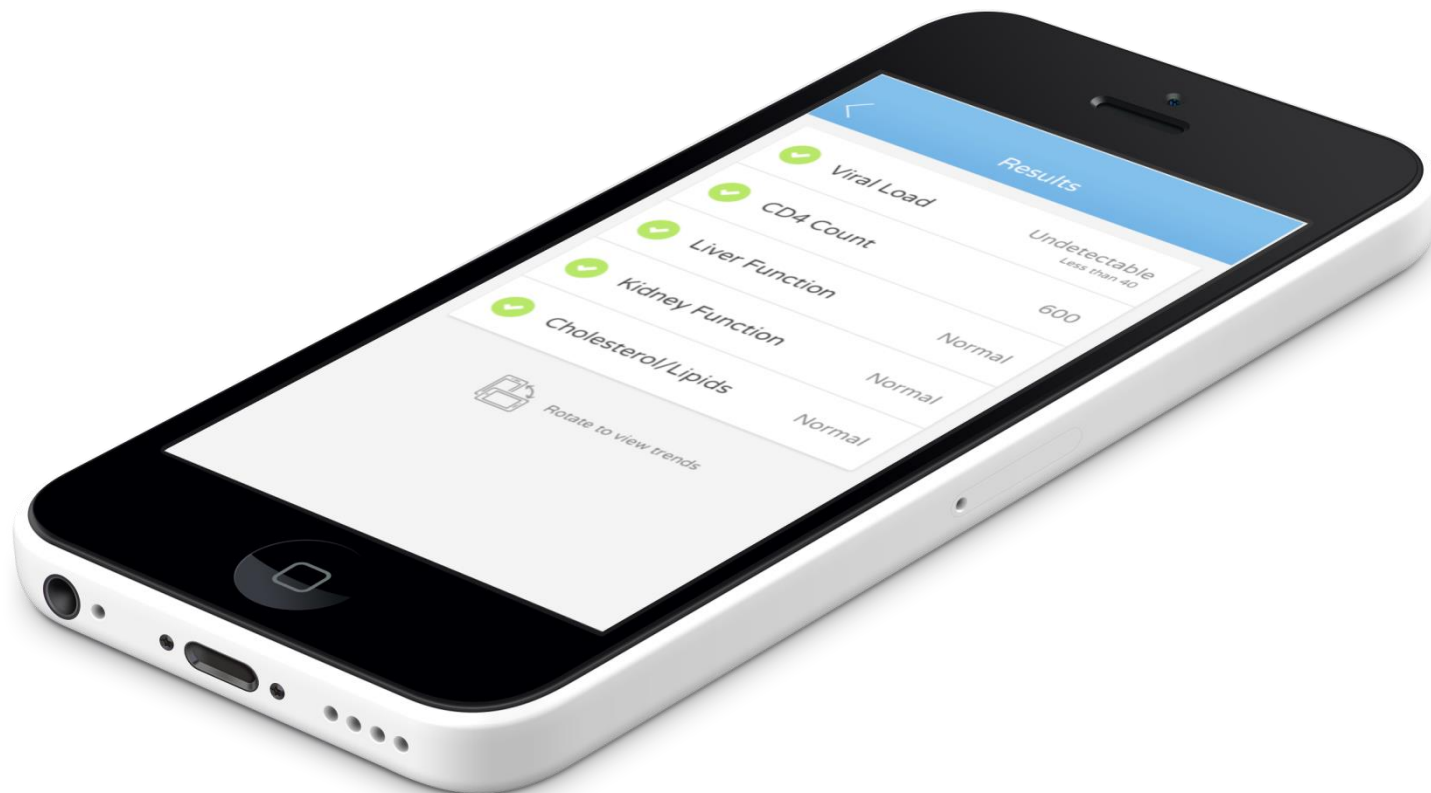
(One tablet, once per day)



Check Interactions









Turing Pharmaceuticals CEO Martin Shkreli defends HIV drugs price hike

22 September 2015 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



Thank You

Any Questions?



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