

Leading HIV/AIDS groups endorse CDC HIV PrEP Guidelines
Reiterate that PrEP is a powerful, additional tool in the AIDS response

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Thursday, May 15, 2014 — A group of 68 leading HIV/AIDS and health organizations today reiterated their strong support for oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) as an important HIV prevention strategy for men and women at risk of HIV infection. The diverse group of advocates, researchers and service providers hailed new HIV PrEP guidelines from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as a science-driven, public health approach to what remains a major health crisis in the United States.

The guidelines come almost two years after the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the oral drug Truvada (TDF/FTC) for HIV prevention following an extensive review of data from multiple, multinational clinical trials of PrEP among men and women with different risks for HIV infection. In the time since FDA approval, the CDC has reviewed additional data and sought input from a range of experts and community members to develop these new guidelines.

The guidelines provide critical information to help healthcare providers and patients evaluate the suitability of oral PrEP as an HIV prevention option and ensure that those who choose PrEP have the support – including ongoing monitoring, counseling, adherence support and frequent HIV and STD testing – necessary for PrEP to be effective.

The group strongly condemns the harmful misrepresentations of the facts and anti-scientific approach to PrEP adopted by the AIDS Healthcare Foundation and its president Michael Weinstein. Weinstein continues to make assertions that are not grounded in scientific evidence. We reject statements from all quarters that add to the deep stigma attached to HIV and that erect barriers between people and what they can use to support their health.

Weinstein's statement that widespread use of PrEP will be accompanied by "a shift to condomless sex" is not based on evidence. In fact, initial studies suggest the opposite, and Weinstein's assertion underestimates the capacity of informed individuals to make decisions about their health and sex lives. We all must do more to reinvigorate the approach to correct and consistent condom use and underscore that PrEP and condoms are complimentary interventions to the prevention of all STDs, including HIV. But Weinstein's statements fail to recognize that many adults – in the United States and across the world – have not been using condoms consistently or correctly for a host of reasons. PrEP now provides an additional option that also provides significant protection against HIV.

The current scientific evidence clearly indicates that PrEP, when taken daily as directed, can reduce the risk of HIV infection by more than 90 percent. CDC's PrEP guidelines, like public health guidelines aimed at helping prevent other diseases, outline the support needed to help patients adhere to the daily dosing. The idea of taking a daily pill for prevention is not new: millions of women have successfully taken contraceptive pills to prevent unintended pregnancy, and men and women are able to take a variety of medications to treat or prevent a range of health issues.

The CDC PrEP guidelines underscore that PrEP is not for everyone. Neither CDC nor any of our organizations are advocating for indiscriminate use of PrEP. Neither is anyone suggesting that oral PrEP is a replacement for condoms; rather it is an additional option from which individuals should be able to choose.

PrEP has the potential to help many individuals in the US and around the world protect themselves from HIV. Failure to strategically, effectively and responsibly implement this scientifically sound strategy as part of comprehensive prevention and treatment programs in our fight against HIV would be a true catastrophe. We support the CDC guidelines, and, more importantly, we support the right of informed adults to choose the most appropriate mix of HIV prevention options for their lives as part of truly comprehensive approaches to testing, treatment, care and prevention.

AIDS Action Baltimore	International Rectal Microbicide Advocates (IRMA)
AIDS Action Coalition	Justice Resource Institute (JRI)
AIDS Action Committee	Lansing Area AIDS Network
AIDS Alabama	Legacy Community Health Services
AIDS Arms	Lifelong
AIDS Community Research Initiative of America (ACRIA)	Los Angeles County Public Health Social Justice Caucus
AIDS Foundation of Chicago	Mr Friendly
AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta	Multicultural AIDS Coalition
AIDS Resource Center Ohio	Nashville CARES
AIDS Treatment News	National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD)
AIDS United	National Coalition of STD Directors (NCSD)
amFAR: The Foundation for AIDS Research	National Female Condom Coalition
Amida Care	National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC)
ASPIRA Association	National Women's Health Network
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care	NO/AIDS Task Force
AVAC	Ohio AIDS Coalition
Bay Area Perinatal AIDS Center (BAPAC)	Positive Women's Network- USA
Between the Lines Newspaper	PrEP for New York City Task Force
Black AIDS Institute	Project Inform
BOOM!Health	Project PrEPare
Center for Health & Gender Equity (CHANGE)	Puerto Rican Cultural Center-Vida/SIDA
Center for HIV Educational Studies and Training (CHEST), Hunter College, CUNY	San Francisco AIDS Foundation
Chicago House and Social Service Agency	SisterLove
FHI 360	Southern AIDS Coalition
Friends For Life, Memphis	St. Louis Community PrEP Implementation Project (C-PIP)
Gay City Health Project	Test Positive Aware Network
Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC)	The AIDS Institute
Georgia Equality	The Well Project
Harlem United Community AIDS Center	Treatment Access Expansion Project
Harm Reduction Coalition	Treatment Action Group
HIV Medicine Association (HIVMA)	Urban Coalition for HIV/AIDS Prevention Services (UCHAPS)
HIV Prevention Justice Alliance	US Women & PrEP Working Group
Housing Works	VOCAL-NY
Howard Brown Health Center	
Inova Juniper Program	

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