

**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  
 AIDS Action Coalition  
 AIDS Action Committee  
 AIDS Alabama  
 AIDS Arms  
 AIDS Community Research Initiative of America (ACRIA)  
 AIDS Foundation of Chicago  
 AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta  
 AIDS Resource Center Ohio  
 AIDS Treatment News  
 AIDS United  
 amfAR: The Foundation for AIDS Research  
 Amida Care  
 ASPIRA Association  
 Association of Nurses in AIDS Care  
 AVAC  
 Bay Area Perinatal AIDS Center (BAPAC)  
 Between the Lines Newspaper  
 Black AIDS Institute  
 BOOM!Health  
 Center for Health & Gender Equity (CHANGE)  
 Center for HIV Educational Studies and Training (CHEST), Hunter College, CUNY  
 Chicago House and Social Service Agency  
 FHI 360  
 Friends For Life, Memphis  
 Gay City Health Project  
 Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC)  
 Georgia Equality  
 Harlem United Community AIDS Center  
 Harm Reduction Coalition  
 HIV Medicine Association (HIVMA)  
 HIV Prevention Justice Alliance  
 Housing Works  
 Howard Brown Health Center  
 Inova Juniper Program

International Rectal Microbicide Advocates (IRMA)  
 Justice Resource Institute (JRI)  
 Lansing Area AIDS Network  
 Legacy Community Health Services  
 Lifelong  
 Los Angeles County Public Health Social Justice Caucus  
 Mr Friendly  
 Multicultural AIDS Coalition  
 Nashville CARES  
 National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD)  
 National Coalition of STD Directors (NCSD)  
 National Female Condom Coalition  
 National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC)  
 National Women's Health Network  
 NO/AIDS Task Force  
 Ohio AIDS Coalition  
 Positive Women's Network- USA  
 PrEP for New York City Task Force  
 Project Inform  
 Project PrEPare  
 Puerto Rican Cultural Center-Vida/SIDA  
 San Francisco AIDS Foundation  
 SisterLove  
 Southern AIDS Coalition  
 St. Louis Community PrEP Implementation Project (C-PIP)  
 Test Positive Aware Network  
 The AIDS Institute  
 The Well Project  
 Treatment Access Expansion Project  
 Treatment Action Group  
 Urban Coalition for HIV/AIDS Prevention Services (UCHAPS)  
 US Women & PrEP Working Group  
 VOCAL-NY

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- <http://prepfacts.org>
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