

**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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Friday, May 30, 2014 — A group of 142 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.

30 for 30 Campaign
 ACT UP NY
 AIDS Action Baltimore
 AIDS Action Coalition
 AIDS Action Committee
 AIDS Alabama
 AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families
 AIDS Arms
 AIDS Community Research Initiative of America (ACRIA)
 AIDS Foundation of Chicago
 AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta
 AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin
 AIDS Resource Center Ohio
 AIDS Treatment Activists Coalition
 AIDS Treatment News
 AIDS United
 American Academy of HIV Medicine
 American Sexual Health Association
 amfAR, Foundation for AIDS Research
 Amida Care
 ANAC
 Anova Health Institute
 Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center
 ASPIRA Association
 Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
 AVAC
 Bakersfield LGBTQ
 Bay Area Perinatal AIDS Center (BAPAC)
 Betances Health Center
 Between the Lines Newspaper
 Black AIDS Institute
 BOOM!Health
 Callen-Lorde Community Health Center
 Cascade AIDS Project
 Center for Health & Gender Equity (CHANGE)
 Center for HIV Educational Studies and Training (CHEST), Hunter College, CUNY
 Central Texas Metropolitan Community Church
 Chicago Center for HIV Elimination
 Chicago Female Condom Campaign
 Chicago House and Social Service Agency
 Chicago Women's AIDS Project
 Coalition of HIV/AIDS NonProfits & Governmental Entities [CHANGE NOLA]
 Community Access National Network-CANN
 Delaware HIV Consortium
 East Bay AIDS Center
 End AIDS Now!
 Equality Michigan
 FHI 360
 Francois-Xavier Bagnoud Center
 Friends For Life, Memphis
 GALAEI
 GAT Portugal
 Gay City Health Project
 Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC)
 GayTherapyLA.com
 Georgia Equality
 Global Justice Institute
 Harlem United Community AIDS Center
 Harm Reduction Coalition
 HealthHIV
 Hispanic AIDS Forum
 HIV/AIDS Alliance for Region Two, Inc.
 HIV Medicine Association (HIVMA)
 HIV Prevention Justice Alliance
 House of Blahnik, Inc.
 House of Joe
 Housing Works
 Howard Brown Health Center
 Hyacinth AIDS Foundation
 India HIV/AIDS Alliance
 Inova Juniper Program
 International Rectal Microbicide Advocates (IRMA)
 IV-CHARIS
 Justice Resource Institute (JRI)
 L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center
 Lambda Legal
 Lansing Area AIDS Network
 Latinos Salud
 Legacy Community Health Services
 Lifelong
 Long Beach AIDS Foundation, Inc.
 Los Angeles County PrEP Workgroup
 Los Angeles County Public Health Social Justice Caucus
 Louisiana AIDS Advocacy Network
 Louisiana Latino Health Coalition for HIV/AIDS Awareness
 Maritime Life Precious Foundation
 Michigan Positive Action Coalition (MI-POZ)
 Minnesota AIDS Project
 MOLI
 Mr Friendly
 Multicultural AIDS Coalition
 Nashville CARES
 National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD)
 National Association of County and City Health Officials
 National Association of Social Workers
 National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, Inc.
 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
Online Buddies, Inc.
OLB Research Institute
Pediatric AIDS Chicago Prevention Initiative
Positive Life Palm Springs
Positive Women's Network- USA
PrEP for New York City Task Force
Prepolicious.org
Program for Wellness Restoration
Project Inform
Project PrEPare
Projecte dels NOMS-Hispanosida
Puerto Rican Cultural Center-Vida/SIDA
Ribbon Consulting Group
San Francisco AIDS Foundation
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S.
(SIECUS)
SisterLove
Skills4
Sociologists AIDS Network
Southern AIDS Coalition
Southern HIV/AIDS Strategy Initiative

St. Louis Community PrEP Implementation Project (C-
PIP)
START at Westminster
Tennessee Association of People With AIDS
Test Positive Aware Network
The AIDS Institute
The Network for Multidisciplinary Studies on ARV-
based HIV Prevention (NEMUS)
The Stigma Project
The Well Project
The Women's Collective
Treatment Access Expansion Project
Treatment Action Group
Unity Fellowship Church
Urban Coalition for HIV/AIDS Prevention Services
(UCHAPS)
US Women & PrEP Working Group
Valley AIDS Information Network Inc.
VOCAL-NY
Whitman-Walker Health
William Way LGBT Community Center
Women With a Vision
Woodhull Sexual Freedom Alliance

For more information, visit:

- <http://myprepexperience.blogspot.com>
- <http://prepfacts.org>
- <http://www.prepwatch.org>