PrEP: Healthcare worker knowledge and attitudes about pre-exposure prophylaxis

“...always tell them that all medication have side effects, you will get used to it the longer you take it. If you know what you want from life, don’t stop or give up – because this is one life.”

“...they are not regularly taking the pills as they feel that they will only take the pill when they are going to have sex with someone. They don’t understand that it doesn’t work instantly when you take it.”

At the moment, the problem with PrEP is more with adherence. Clients are not adhering. Most of them said they are not allowed to come into the drop in centres. So, we would rather drop off the medication...

We spoke to 30 healthcare workers who are providing PrEP

Who did we interview?

30 HEALTHCARE WORKERS
13 NURSES
8 COMMUNITY EDUCATORS
3 CLINICIANS

What did healthcare workers see as the benefits of PrEP?

- Increases the number of HIV prevention options: 93%
- Peace of mind: 60%
- Empowerment: 60%
- Control: 50%
- Allow for sexual freedom: 43%
- Can be taken discreetly: 43%
- Does not require partner’s consent: 43%
- Provides new form of control: 43%
- Comfort: 37%
- Security: 37%

What concerns did healthcare workers have about PrEP?

- Lack of access: 33%
- Being judged: 30%
- Side effects: 27%
- Availability: 23%
- Peers or family not approving: 20%
- Sexual partners not approving: 20%
- Violence: 7%

What healthcare workers want to know?

Providers were highly knowledgeable about PrEP and answered (on average) 12 out of 14 questions correct: 88%

Only 53% of providers knew that PrEP should not be offered to pregnant women.

Only 33% of providers knew that PrEP can be stopped once a patient’s HIV+ partner is virally suppressed.

Want more information about PrEP or WHERE to get it, visit:
www.myprep.co.za

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