PLAN 4 **RING** TOOLKIT

PrEP Ring Facility Readiness Assessments

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This is part of the
PLAN 4 RING TOOLKIT,
a suite of resources and tools designed to support planning for dapivirine ring introduction and scale-up.

The toolkit contents, listed below, can be downloaded at
www.prepwatch.org/plan4ring-toolkit

PrEP Ring Language Considerations

PLANNING

Introduction Framework

Situation Analysis Template

Guidelines Template

Rollout Scenarios Analysis Template

DELIVERY

Service Delivery Channel Analysis Template

Facility Readiness Assessments

Healthcare Provider Training Considerations

Implementation Study Protocol Template

PROMOTION

Demand Creation Design Guide

Demand Creation Lessons Learned

Considerations for Monitoring and Evaluation

Site Readiness Tools for PrEP Ring Rollout

Introduction

Two site readiness tools—a *public sector site readiness* tool and a *pharmacy readiness tool*—were designed to help determine site readiness to provide the PrEP ring to end users. These tools can be used at the start of PrEP ring rollout and/or adapted to periodically review readiness to provide the ring. These tools can also facilitate site selection for demonstration projects or implementation studies.

These tools are not designed to disqualify sites from providing the PrEP ring. Rather, they are intended to understand existing capacity and identify areas where site-level improvements or investments can be prioritized to ensure readiness to provide the PrEP ring.

The **public sector site readiness tool** was field-tested in the capital cities of Kenya, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, at two sites in each country. Implementation of the tool took between 30 and 60 minutes at each site. South Africa reviewed the tool with several mentors and/or nurses from three sites that are active in oral PrEP provision and will likely be involved in PrEP ring provision.

The **pharmacy readiness tool** was reviewed by Kenya's National AIDS & STI Control Program (NASCOP) and the Pharmaceutical Society of Kenya and field-tested at two pharmacies in Nairobi. The pharmacies chosen for the field test were already providing HIV self-test kits with support from an external donor.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- Both tools are intended for use by site managers, HIV prevention program managers, national MOH staff, and/or implementing partners.

- All tools were designed and field-tested in anticipation of PrEP ring regulatory approvals and updates to national guidelines to include the PrEP ring. Thus, they should be adapted to meet country-level requirements before they are deployed.

- It is also recommended that these tools be reviewed and/or endorsed by national HIV programs before they are deployed. Other key stakeholders may also review them before they are used. Country-level adaptations should also be field-tested before deployment to ensure they are aligned with country guidelines and the country's intended readiness assessment approach for PrEP ring implementation.

- Other essential information, such as a country's rollout plan, should guide adaptation of any criteria, where the tool is deployed, and the analysis of results. For example, a country's PrEP ring rollout plan may prioritize sites that are currently providing oral PrEP or pharmacies that are already implementing decentralized drug distribution models for HIV treatment.

- Some countries may prefer to use online platforms to facilitate data collection and data management. This option was not field-tested but may facilitate data collection and management.

Public sector site readiness tool

The public sector site readiness tool provides two sets of readiness criteria: **basic criteria** (marked by an *) and **comprehensive criteria**. The basic criteria can be used to assess readiness of the essentials needed for PrEP ring delivery, while the comprehensive criteria can be used to further assess site readiness based on a country's unique needs and preferences. Ministries of Health (MOH) can use the tool as a checklist to assess whether basic and/or comprehensive criteria are met and where investments or improvements are needed to ensure sites meet country-specific PrEP ring service provision requirements. It is suggested that the findings of this tool, especially where needs for improvements are identified, are reviewed and a plan is developed to identify the necessary resources and actions for addressing improvement needs.

This tool can also be adapted to determine the readiness of community access points, such as mobile clinics, to provide the PrEP ring or for use at sites that are only approved to resupply the ring to clients. It can also be adapted for use in private sector sites.

The sections within this tool include:

1. Site Operations
2. Commodity Management
3. Human Resources
4. Health Service Delivery Capacity
5. Demand Creation
6. Gender-based Violence (GBV) Service Capacity
7. Quality Assurance and Reporting Systems
8. Youth-friendly Services
9. Key Population (KP) friendly Services
10. Service Delivery Fees and Other Costs
11. Conclusion

This tool captures three response options—Yes, No, and Not applicable. It also includes a column titled "comments and areas for improvement" that can be used to document additional details, especially concerning areas needing improvement. A "Yes" response indicates that additional investment or improvement is not needed. A "No" response indicates additional investment or improvement may be needed to help ensure readiness. If "Not applicable" is selected, the criteria do not apply to the site.

PHARMACY READINESS TOOL

The pharmacy readiness tool is presented as a questionnaire and is intended to facilitate data collection, management, and analysis from a number of potential pharmacy outlets. This tool also includes criteria to assess the willingness of pharmacies to participate in PrEP ring rollout as well as questions about potential service fees. If pharmacies are part of a chain, questions regarding service fees and product promotion approaches may be more appropriate for pharmacy chain management rather than the pharmacies themselves.

The results of this tool can be entered into a database to facilitate readiness analysis using different types of criteria. For example, MOHs may prioritize pharmacies for PrEP ring rollout using a select mix of criteria, such as those with a valid operating license, those that have more than one licensed pharmacist on staff, and those that have private space for client counselling. The mix of readiness criteria for prioritizing PrEP ring rollout support to pharmacies should be determined with a national HIV program and other stakeholders. The results generated by this tool should be interpreted according to the country's specific context and needs.

The sections within this tool include:

1. General Information
2. Pharmacy Operations
3. Physical Environment
4. Visual Inspection Guide
5. Commodity Management and Supply Chain
6. Quality Assurance and Reporting Systems
7. Pharmacy Services
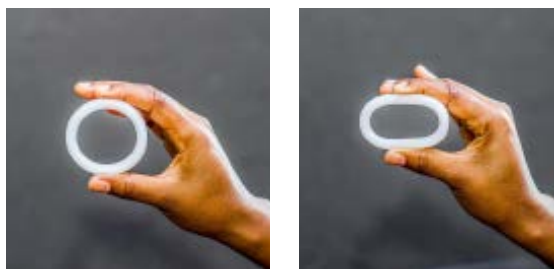8. Service Fees
9. Conclusion

PUBLIC SECTOR SITE READINESS TOOL

Introduce the assessment:

Thank you for your time today. My name is ⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯ and I represent ⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯ . We would like to speak with you to determine readiness of this site to provide the Dapivirine Vaginal Ring 25 mg or "PrEP ring" to your clientele. This tool is not intended as a basis for formal research. Your responses will not be used to disqualify this site from being able to provide the PrEP ring. The responses will be used to identify any needs for investment or improvement to ensure readiness of this site to provide the PrEP ring. All personal information will be kept confidential.

The PrEP ring is a new HIV prevention device shaped like a ring that a woman inserts vaginally. It slowly releases the drug dapivirine and can be kept in place for up to one month. Because little drug is released into the body, the PrEP ring is less likely to cause side effects or HIV resistance than some other HIV prevention products. With consistent use, the PrEP ring has been shown to reduce the risk of HIV infection by up to 50%. The ring is approved/not yet approved in [Country name].

The PrEP ring looks like this:

PrEP RING READINESS ASSESSMENT
Public sector site readiness tool

GENERAL INTERVIEW INFORMATION	
1	Date:
2	Name of site:
3	Province/region/district/state/county:
4	Global positioning system (GPS) coordinates:
5	Site address:
6	Name of site manager:
Contact information:	Email:
	Phone number:
7	Name and title of person completing this form (if different from #6):
Contact information:	Email:
	Phone number:

PrEP RING READINESS ASSESSMENT   page 1 of 15   PUBLIC SECT...

Public sector site readiness tool:
15 pages

READINESS CRITERIA

#	Section/Question	Description	Means of verification (MOV)	Yes = Y; No = N; Not applicable = N/A	Comments and areas for improvement
1	SITE OPERATIONS				
1.1*	Does the site have a person, team, or committee designated to lead HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) service delivery/ring introduction?	The lead could be a team or individual.	Interview	Y N N/A	
1.2	Does the site receive support from the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) implementing partners or other donors (e.g., Global Fund) for PrEP implementation?	The purpose of this question is to understand if the site is receiving support for PrEP implementation in addition to support provided by the Ministry of Health	Interview	Y N N/A	
1.3*	Does the site have a copy of current ring provision guidelines (HIV prevention or ring-specific)? *[The ring may or may not be included in national HIV guidelines at the time of the assessment]*	Verify availability of hard or soft copy	Interview/observation	Y N N/A	
1.4*	Has the site adopted COVID-19 precautions according to national guidelines? (E.g., hand washing and/or sanitizer use; mask; social distancing guidelines; ventilation; basic screening; information, education, and communication (IEC) materials, etc.)	Verify availability of hard or soft copy COVID-19 guidelines or IEC materials, availability of handwashing stations, hand sanitizer, and other guidance materials (e.g., guidance for clients to socially distance). This relates to overall quality of care.	Interview/observation	Y N N/A	
			SUBTOTAL	Yes _____ No _____ N/A _____	

Note: The asterisk (*) designates basic readiness criteria. The basic criteria can be used to assess readiness of the essentials needed for PrEP ring delivery.

PrEP RING READINESS ASSESSMENT   page 2 of 15   **PUBLIC SECTOR SITE** READINESS TOOL

#	Section/Qu...
2	COMMODI...
2.1*	Is the site... If no, plea... sector, no... receive co...
2.2*	Are site st... managem... reporting c...
2.3	Does the s... pharmace...
2.4*	Does the s... (The packa... packaged...
2.5*	Is the stor... stored off...

No _____
N/A _____

PrEP RING READINESS ASSESSMENT   page 3 of 15   **PUBLIC SECTOR SITE** READINESS TOOL

#	Section/Qu...
3	HUMAN R...
3.1*	At this site, provision o...
3.2*	At this site, the PrEP rin...
3.3	At this site, HIV preven... supporting... options (i.e... not been u...
3.4*	Are toolkits... oral PrEP, a... counselling...
3.5*	Are anatom... ring insertic...

PrEP RING READINESS ASSESSMENT   page 4 of 15   **PUBLIC SECTOR SITE** READINESS TOOL
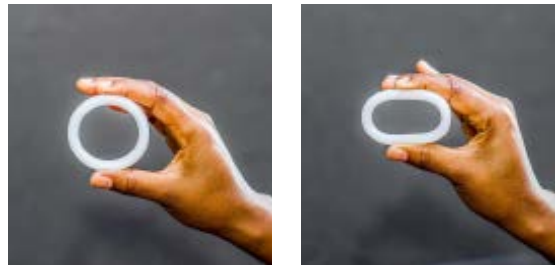
PHARMACY READINESS TOOL

Introduce the assessment:

Thank you for your time today. My name is ⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯ and I represent ⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯ . We would like to speak with the pharmacy manager/supervisor/superintendent or owner to discuss your pharmacy's willingness and readiness to provide the Dapivirine Vaginal Ring 25 mg or "PrEP ring" to your clientele. This tool is not intended as a basis for formal research. Your responses will not be used to disqualify you from dispensing the PrEP ring to your clientele.

The PrEP ring is a new HIV prevention device shaped like a ring that a woman inserts vaginally. It slowly releases the drug dapivirine and can be kept in place for up to one month. Because little drug is released into the body, the PrEP ring is less likely to cause side effects or HIV resistance than some other HIV prevention products. With consistent use, the PrEP ring has been shown to reduce the risk of HIV infection by up to 50%. The ring is approved/not yet approved in [Country name].

The PrEP ring looks like this:

We anticipate that the PrEP ring will be supported by international donors and/or the Government of ⎯⎯⎯⎯⎯ as it is introduced into the private sector. Because of this, this assessment will review pharmacy readiness in areas such as pharmacy operations and physical operating conditions. All personal information will be kept confidential. As part of this assessment, we would like to take photographs to document the pharmacy's storage readiness and physical environment (e.g., client counselling space and pharmaceutical storage space).

PrEP RING READINESS ASSESSMENT
Pharmacy readiness tool

GENERAL INTERVIEW INFORMATION	
1	Name of assessor:
2	Date:
3	Province/region/ district/state/county:
4	Name of pharmacy:
5	Global positioning system (GPS) coordinates:
6	Pharmacy address:
7	Interviewee contact information	Name:
	Email:
	Phone number:

PrEP RING READINESS ASSESSMENT   page 1 of 10   PHARMACY REA

Pharmacy readiness tool:
10 pages

PrEP RING READINESS ASSESSMENT
Pharmacy readiness tool

READINESS CRITERIA

#	Question	Response / Code		Comments
SECTION 1. GENERAL INFORMATION				
1.1	Would you like to participate in this assessment? *If no, STOP the interview and thank the person for their time.*	Yes	1	
		No	0	
1.2	What is your professional designation?	Pharmacist	1	
		Pharmacy technician	2	
		Pharmacy assistant	3	
		Other (specify)	4	
1.3	What is your role at this pharmacy?	Director/owner	1	
		Superintendent/manager	2	
		Pharmacist	3	
		Part-time pharmacist	4	
		Pharmacy technician	5	
		Other (specify)	6	
SECTION 2. PHARMACY OPERATIONS				
2.1	Is the pharmacy managed by a pharmacist?	Yes	1	
		No	0	
		Don't know	8	
		No response	9	
2.2	How many of each staff type work here?	Full-time pharmacists (a):		
		Part-time pharmacists (b):		
		Full-time pharmacy technicians (c):		
		Part-time pharmacy technicians (d):		
		Pharmacy assistants (e):		
		Counsellors/nurses (f):		
		Other clinical staff (g):		

PrEP RING READINESS ASSESSMENT   page 2 of 10   **PHARMACY** READINESS TOOL

#	Question
2.3	Which days pharmacy
2.4	Does the p
2.5	Does the p internet ac
2.6	Does the p license for *(If NO, skip*
2.7	What is the the license
2.8	Does the p charge (e.g pharmaceu valid and c *(If NO, skip*
2.9	What is the the license
2.10	About how in the phar

PrEP RING READINESS ASSESSMENT   page 3 of 10   **PHARMACY** READINESS TOOL

#	Question
SECTION 3. PHYSI	
3.1	Does the p areas for fil dispensing
3.2	Does the p area for co
3.3	May I take area? This physical en client coun *ensure that the photos*
3.4	Does the p measures t (e.g. secur locked stor

#	Requirem
SECTION 4. VISUA to ensure that the	
4.1	Social dis guideline precautio to clients
4.2	Private a audio an provide c patient c
4.3a	Storage and prod
4.3b	May I tak area? Thi physical storage c *(Assessor individua*

PrEP RING READINESS ASSESSMENT   page 4 of 10   **PHARMACY** READINESS TOOL