

WHO IMPLEMENTATION
TOOL FOR PRE-EXPOSURE
PROPHYLAXIS (PrEP)
OF HIV INFECTION

JULY 2017

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Overview

Following the WHO recommendation in September 2015 that “oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) should be offered as an additional prevention choice for people at substantial risk of HIV infection as part of combination HIV prevention approaches”, partners in countries expressed the need for practical advice on how to consider the introduction of PrEP and start implementation. In response, WHO has developed this series of modules to support the implementation of PrEP among a range of populations in different settings.

Although there is growing acknowledgement of PrEP’s potential as an additional HIV prevention option and countries are beginning to consider how PrEP might be most effectively implemented, there has been limited experience with providing PrEP outside research and demonstration projects in low- and middle-income countries. Consequently, there is often uncertainty around many implementation issues. The modules in this tool provide initial suggestions for the introduction and implementation of PrEP based on currently available evidence and experience. However, it is recognized that this evidence may evolve following wider PrEP use; therefore, it is likely that this tool will require regular updating.

PrEP should not replace or compete with effective and well-established HIV prevention interventions, such as comprehensive condom programming for sex workers and men who have sex with men and harm reduction for people who inject drugs. Many people who could benefit most from PrEP belong to key population groups that may face legal and social barriers to accessing health services. This needs to be considered when developing PrEP services. Although the public health approach underpins the WHO guidance on PrEP, the decision to use PrEP should always be made by the individual concerned

Target audience and scope of tool

This PrEP tool contains modules for a range of stakeholders to support them in the consideration, planning, introduction and implementation of oral PrEP. The modules can be used on their own or in combination. In addition, there is a module for individuals interested in or already taking PrEP. (See Summary of modules below.)

This tool is the product of collaboration between many experts, community organizations and networks, implementers, researchers and partners from all regions. The information presented is aligned with WHO’s 2016 consolidated guidelines on the use of antiretroviral drugs for HIV treatment and prevention.

All modules make reference to the evidence-based 2015 WHO recommendation on PrEP. They do not make any new recommendations on PrEP, focusing instead on suggested implementation approaches.

Guiding principles

It is important to adopt a public health, human rights and people-centred approach when offering PrEP to those at substantial risk of HIV. Similar to other HIV prevention and treatment interventions, a human rights-based approach gives priority to issues concerning universal health coverage, gender equality and health-related rights including accessibility, availability, acceptability and quality of PrEP services.

SUMMARY OF MODULES



Module 1: Clinical. This module is for clinicians, including physicians, nurses and clinical officers. It gives an overview of how to provide PrEP safely and effectively, including: screening for substantial risk of HIV; performing appropriate testing before initiating someone on PrEP and while the person is taking PrEP; and how to follow up PrEP users and offer counselling on issues such as adherence.



Module 2: Community educators and advocates. For PrEP services to reach populations in an effective and acceptable way, community educators and advocates are needed to increase awareness about PrEP in their communities. This module provides up-to-date information on PrEP that should be considered in community-led activities that aim to increase knowledge about PrEP and generate demand and access.



Module 3: Counsellors. This module is for staff who counsel people as they consider PrEP or start taking PrEP and support them in addressing issues around coping with side-effects and adherence strategies. Those who counsel PrEP users may be lay, peer or professional counsellors and healthcare workers, including nurses, clinical officers and doctors.



Module 4: Leaders. This module aims to inform and update leaders and decision-makers about PrEP. It provides information on the benefits and limitations of PrEP so that they can consider how PrEP could be most effectively implemented in their own settings. It also contains a series of frequently asked questions about PrEP, with related answers.



Module 5: Monitoring and evaluation. This module is for people responsible for monitoring PrEP programmes at the national and site levels. It provides information on how to monitor PrEP for safety and effectiveness, suggesting core and additional indicators for site-level, national and global reporting.



Module 6: Pharmacists. This module is for pharmacists and people working in pharmacies under a pharmacist's supervision. It provides information on the medicines used in PrEP, including the optimal storage conditions. It also gives suggestions for how pharmacists and pharmacy staff can monitor PrEP adherence and support PrEP users to take their medication regularly.



Module 7: Regulatory officials. This module is for national authorities in charge of authorizing the manufacturing, importation, marketing and/or control of antiretroviral medicines used for HIV prevention. It provides information on the safety and efficacy of PrEP medicines.



Module 8: Site planning. This module is for people involved in organizing PrEP services at specific sites. It outlines the steps to be taken in planning a PrEP service and gives suggestions for personnel, infrastructure and commodities that could be considered when implementing PrEP.



Module 9: Strategic planning. As WHO recommends offering PrEP to people at substantial HIV risk, this module offers public health guidance for policy-makers on how to prioritize services, in order to reach those who could benefit most from PrEP, and in which settings PrEP services could be most cost-effective.



Module 10: Testing providers. This module is for people who are responsible for providing testing services at PrEP sites and associated laboratories. It offers guidance in selecting relevant testing services, including appropriate screening of individuals before PrEP is initiated and monitoring while they are taking PrEP. Information is provided on testing for HIV, creatinine, hepatitis B and C virus, pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.



Module 11: PrEP users. This module provides information for people who are interested in taking PrEP to reduce their risk of acquiring HIV and people who are already taking PrEP – to support them in their choice and use of PrEP. This module gives ideas for countries and organizations implementing PrEP to help them develop their own tools.

ANNEXES

Review of evidence. A wide range of evidence including the following two systematic reviews informed the 2015 WHO recommendation on PrEP for people at substantial risk of HIV infection: (i) Fonner VA et al. *Oral tenofovir-based HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for all populations: a systematic review and meta-analysis of effectiveness, safety, behavioural and reproductive health outcomes*; (ii) Koechlin FM et al. *Values and preferences on the use of oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV prevention among multiple populations: a systematic review of the literature.*

Annotated Internet resources. This list highlights some of the web-based resources on PrEP currently available together with the stakeholder groups they are catering to. WHO will continue to provide updates on new resources.

All modules are available at <http://who.int/hiv/pub/prep/prep-implementation-tool>.

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