

# U.S. WOMEN AND PREP WORKING GROUP

## POSITION STATEMENT

### Key Points

March 4, 2013

#### **Background**

- Daily oral TDF/FTC (Truvada) is FDA-approved for HIV-negative women and men to reduce risk of HIV infection. The data to support this approval come from several HIV prevention clinical trials and these data are clear: those who are able to take daily TDF/FTC reduce their risk of HIV. What is not yet clear is how best to deliver this intervention and support those interested in taking it.
- Daily oral Truvada is a valuable tool that some U.S. women, including transwomen, may use to reduce their HIV risk.
- There are still key unanswered questions about how and to whom PrEP use should be promoted in the U.S.
- The U.S. Women and PrEP Working Group – a group of leading women’s health advocates from across the country – is working to help define these questions, and propose a way forward.

#### **Key Unanswered Questions for PrEP for U.S. Women**

##### *Access and adherence*

- Which women in the U.S. could most benefit from PrEP?
- How will their health care providers be trained on PrEP use?
- What is the role of social marketing for PrEP in different communities?
- What will safety, efficacy, and eventual use of PrEP among women look like over the long term?
- What factors affect PrEP adherence among women and how can women who use PrEP best be supported in taking it as prescribed?

##### *Possible risks and side effects*

- What issues will PrEP raise for women who are at high risk of HIV? How will the availability of PrEP affect women’s choices?
  - Will some sex workers, for example, be pressured by their business managers to use PrEP because male clients dislike condoms?
  - Will some women be pressured by their partners to use PrEP instead of condoms?
- Are the possible interactions between Truvada and the female hormones many transgender women use? Will there be drug interactions between PrEP and recreational drugs?
- Are there long-term health effects from Truvada for children whose mothers use PrEP during pregnancy or breast-feeding? How can these be tracked beyond the first year of life covered by current PrEP registries?

## Next steps

Answering these questions quickly and accurately will require investment, collaboration and some restructuring of the current PrEP research agenda.

The U.S. Women and PrEP Working Group calls on the Office of National AIDS Policy and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to coordinate a collaborative effort that involves the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the CDC, other Health and Human Services entities, Gilead Sciences, city health departments, civil society groups, service providers, and HIV/AIDS, sexual and reproductive health, and other community-based service-providing organizations.

The Working Group is looking for specific outcomes for this effort, including:

- A well-articulated pathway to answering these critical questions about PrEP
- Substantial, ongoing civil society engagement in the process
- A national plan for provider education and social marketing about PrEP
- A clearly delineated, detailed plan for incorporating PrEP education and access for women into implementation of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS)
- A process that includes milestones, feedback mechanisms, sufficient resources and accountability

Time is of the essence and the Working Group proposes the following deadlines for the next critical steps in this process:

*July 15, 2013* Coordinating group is established to develop an integrated plan of PrEP rollout for women

*Sept. 30, 2013* Funding is identified and mechanisms in place to support the needed range of demonstration projects on women's uptake and use of PrEP

## Bottom Line

PrEP has potential to be a powerful prevention tool for some women. But this promise will not be fully realized unless specific actions are taken without delay. Further, planning for meaningful rollout of PrEP for women must be done with the full participation and leadership of individuals and communities most in need of comprehensive HIV prevention.

*For more information, please contact:*

**Dazon Dixon Diallo**, Working Group Convenor, 404-932-7661, dddiallo@gmail.com

**Erika Aaron**, 215-696-0640, Erika.Aaron@DrexelMed.edu

**Kay Marshall**, 347-249-6375, kaymarshall@mac.com

## Members of the U.S. Women and PrEP Working Group

Erika Aaron, RN, CRNP, MSN  
Ada Adimora, MD, MPH  
Amy Allina  
Judith Auerbach, PhD  
Dawn Averitt Bridge  
Emily Bass  
Sarah Jenny Bleviss, MPS  
Dee Borrego  
Dee Dee Chamble  
Hadiyah Charles, MA  
Manju Chatani Gada, MPH  
Deborah Cohan, MD, MPH  
Jenna Conley  
Cheryl Courtney-Evans  
Julie Davids  
Dazon Dixon Diallo, MPH  
Anna Forbes, MSS  
Deirdre Grant  
Angela Green, MPH  
Polly Harrison, PhD  
Rebekah Horowitz, MPH, JD  
Coco Jarvis, JD  
Jennifer Johnson, MD, MPH  
Ebony Johnson  
Naina Khanna  
Stacey Little, PhD, MPH  
Nicole Little  
Ellen Liu, MA  
Kate MacQueen, PhD, MPH  
Krista Martel  
Tracee McDaniel  
Terry McGovern, JD  
Kate Miller, MA  
Jessica L. Mooney, MA  
Kieta Mutepfa, MSW  
Patricia Nalls  
Kimberly Parker, PhD, MPH  
Julie Patterson, MPH  
Sarah Patterson, M.Ed.  
Cindy Pearson  
Shanebrae Price  
Sonia Rastogi  
Maura Riordan  
Bamby Salcedo  
Linda Scruggs  
Serra Sippel, MA  
Kimberleigh Smith, MPA  
Kathleen Squires, MD  
Shannon Weber, MSW  
Lisa Diane White

Drexel University College of Medicine  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
National Women's Health Network  
Consultant  
The Well Project  
AVAC  
Sex Workers Organizing Project – New York  
HIV Prevention Justice Alliance  
LaGender, Inc.  
Harm Reduction Coalition  
AVAC  
Bay Area Perinatal AIDS Center  
Conley Communications  
Transgender Individuals Living Their Truth, Inc.  
AIDS Foundation of Chicago  
Sisterlove, Inc.  
Consultant  
AVAC  
Iris Women's Center  
AVAC  
The Women's Collective  
Treatment Action Group  
The Well Project  
PxROAR  
Positive Women's Network — USA  
FHI360  
SHERO  
Ms. Foundation  
FHI360  
The Well Project  
Juxtaposed Center for Transformation Inc.  
Columbia University  
AIDS Legal Council of Chicago  
Women's HIV Research Collaborative (Legacy Project/HANC)  
Black Treatment Advocates Network Los Angeles  
The Women's Collective  
Texas Women's University  
PxROAR  
Persist Health Project  
National Women's Health Network  
Sisterlove, Inc.  
Positive Women's Network – USA  
AIDS United  
Coalición Trans-Latina  
Altarum Institute  
Center for Health and Gender Equity  
Harlem United  
Thomas Jefferson University Hospital  
Bay Area Perinatal AIDS Center  
Sisterlove, Inc.

