

Providing comments to the PBAC on HIV PrEP

June 2017

The Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) welcomes comments in support of applications for drugs to be subsidised by the Australian Government. AFAO is preparing comments to PBAC in support of the applications by Gilead and Alphapharm for listing of their PrEP medications at the 7 July 2017 PBAC meeting. AFAO members, partners and community members may also like to prepare comments to PBAC.

You may wish to comment on the following issues:

- **How PrEP will help us achieve National HIV Strategy goals:** PrEP will enable us to dramatically reduce HIV transmission in Australia. It is a critical component of Australia's efforts to prevent HIV.
- **Why we need PBS listing:** If PrEP is not subsidised on the PBS, most gay men who purchase PrEP online will continue to do so, and this means they may not be seeing their GP regularly for monitoring and sexual health check-ups.
- **How Australia's gay community is ready for PrEP:** Australia's gay community has high levels of PrEP awareness and good health literacy. If your organisation has been responding to community interest in PrEP by hosting community forums and developing information resources this could be included in its submission. If you are submitting comments as an individual, describe your own experiences of taking PrEP and observations of friends who are taking PrEP.
- **How PrEP will be used by gay men:** Gay men are likely to take PrEP only for those periods in their life when their risk of acquiring HIV is higher. Providing PrEP to gay men most at risk of HIV would be more than offset by savings from treatment costs for people diagnosed with HIV because they do not have access to PrEP.
- **How PrEP can increase STI testing and treatment:** Quarterly STI screening of PrEP users has the potential to increase the detection and treatment of STIs, which can lower STI rates.
- **How systems and infrastructure are already in place:** PrEP can be integrated into existing education and care arrangements.
- **What PrEP prescribing arrangements are needed:** AFAO's view is that no restrictions should be placed on which doctors are able to prescribe PrEP. Limiting who can prescribe PrEP, such as only to trained and accredited section 100 HIV prescribers, will greatly restrict access and produce inequity across Australia due to the small numbers, or absence of, s100 doctors in many places.
- **What is an appropriate PBS qualifying criteria:** AFAO believes that PrEP should be offered to any person who is at high risk of acquiring HIV.

Comments are due to PBAC on **Wednesday 7 June**. Comments can be provided [online](#) or via email to the PBAC Secretariat: CommentsPBAC@health.gov.au.