



A Division of AIDS
Resource Center Ohio

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For the first time in nearly 20 years FDA approves non-surgical biomedical HIV prevention tool aimed at reducing sexual transmission

Today, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the use of Truvada for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). Truvada, manufactured by Gilead Sciences Inc., is the first drug to reduce the risk of HIV infection in uninfected individuals who are at high risk of HIV infection.

Truvada was studied in several major trials which demonstrated that the once-daily pill, when taken consistently and in combination with safer sex practices, significantly reduces the chances of acquiring HIV. PrEP will be the first new, non-surgical biomedical prevention tool against sexual transmission in nearly twenty years.

“It will be important to think beyond who will provide the tablet, to who’s going to provide the education and set of comprehensive wrap-around services necessary to effectively translate the intervention from clinical research into real-world public health practice”, stated Tyler Andrew TerMeer, Director of the Ohio AIDS Coalition, a division of AIDS Resource Center Ohio.

ARC Ohio and the Ohio AIDS Coalition believe that biomedical prevention interventions such as PrEP have immense potential, especially if offered as part of a comprehensive HIV-prevention package including risk reduction counseling and coupled with traditional prevention approaches such as condom use, expanded testing, and linkage to treatment and care to ensure that any positive outcomes from PrEP or other innovative interventions are not mitigated by changes in risk behaviors.

“PrEP is not meant to be the silver bullet in addressing the epidemic for all those at risk, but rather used as a targeted addition to the prevention toolkit for those populations at highest risk for acquiring HIV infection” stated Bill Hardy, President & CEO of AIDS Resource Center Ohio.

According to the Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control and Prevention the pill would be aimed at an estimated 415,000 Americans who are among those at high risk for contracting HIV. These include people whose spouses or partners are living with the disease, as well as gay men who had more than two partners in the past year and didn’t use condoms.

ARC Ohio and the Ohio AIDS Coalition will continue to monitor the biomedical landscape and continue to keep Ohio communities informed about the roll out of new and developing prevention strategies in reducing the incidence of HIV.

For more information contact OAC at (800) 226-5554 or visit www.prepwatch.org & www.avac.org/prep.

