Science and community in the response to HIV, STIs and co-infections in Asia and the Pacific

Bangkok, Thailand, 17 November 2017
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PrEp Pilipinas
Ronnivin Pagtakhan, LoveYourself
A Pilot Project of **Community-based Peer Driven** HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis for Men who have sex with Men (MSM) and Transgender Women (TGW) in Manila, the Philippines
While HIV preventive behavior, including HIV testing, among Philippine MSM is being brought to scale, formative research and pilot studies evaluating the PrEP concept for wider implementation among Philippine MSM can begin.

Frits van Griensven, PhD, MSc, MPH

Final Mission Report
Delivery of oral antiretroviral chemoprophylaxis for the prevention of HIV infection in MSM in the Philippines, Nov-Dec 2015
Concerns regarding PrEP implementation

Should or could the government fund PrEP?

Not yet part of the procurement plan

Are there negative social reactions?
Reactions from policy makers, PLHIV community (may affect budget for ART)

Need to identify service providers?
Public clinics? Private clinics? NGOs?

How soon can PrEP be implemented?

Sustainability?
Strategizing immediate PrEP delivery through a demonstration research

Access to service - even if we do not know yet how to best deliver it
Scientific non-political environment
Learning by doing
Evidence-based lobbying to policy makers
WHY COMMUNITY BASED?
Developed from the premise of limited access and uptake of MSM/TGW in publicly funded primary care services

Alternative models to reach, engage, and retain MSM/TGW in primary care and HIV prevention services are therefore needed.

WHY COMMUNITY BASED?
PROJECT GOAL

The goal of this pilot project is to deliver, evaluate and document community-based HIV PrEP services for MSM/TGW at high risk for HIV infection in metro Manila, the Philippines.
OVERALL OBJECTIVES

- Evaluate feasibility and acceptability of community-based preventive HIV PrEP services
- Develop, implement and evaluate community based PrEP services
- Document the delivery and evaluation of community based PrEP services for future use and scaling
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

• Assess eligibility and uptake of PrEP among MSM/TGW
• Measure PrEP adherence and HIV risk behavior
• Collect self-reports of project related stigma and discrimination
• Determine breakthrough HIV infection, ARV drug resistance and prevalence and incidence of sexually transmitted infections
• Identify factors and determinants associated with the outcomes listed above
Population
HIV-uninfected MSM/TGW at high risk of acquiring HIV infection

Inclusion Criteria

Exclusion Criteria

Sample size
200 enrolled participants

Treatment regimen
Self-administered daily oral dual antiretroviral HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis with co-formulated tablets of FTC/TDF

Duration
The duration of treatment will be 12 months, with post-project access for an additional 12 months. Treatment will be free of charge.
Inclusion Criteria

Male sex-at-birth, 18 years old and above
Resident of greater Manila area, available for at least 12 months
Known HIV-Ab and HBs-Ag negative
At high risk for HIV infection defined as one or more (in the past 6 months):
  Unprotected sexual activity
  One or more STIs
  Exchanged sex for money, goods, or favors
  Used drugs for sexual pleasure
Exclusion Criteria

- Known HIV-Ab reactive or symptoms of acute retroviral infection
- Known HBs-Ag reactive or symptoms of acute/chronic Hepatitis B infection
- Estimated creatinine clearance of <60 ml/min (GFR)
- Having/developing clinical symptoms of lactic acidosis or pronounced hepatotoxicity
- Concurrently taking a nephrotoxic agent (e.g., high-dose non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs)
Project PrEPPY Updates
Lead Generation and Education

Media
mileage
Promotions on website, social media

Partnership with gay mobile-based apps (Grindr, Hornet, Blued)
1740+ participants interested to take PrEP
412 participants pre-qualified
222 participants signed for visit
3-STEP ENROLLMENT PROCESS

**SCREENING**
- HIV Rapid Test
- HBsAg, Syphilis
- HIV PCR
- Serum Creatinine
- Counseling
- Eligibility Questionnaire
- Baseline Questionnaire

**CONSULTATION**
- Vital Signs
- Medical History
- Physical Examination
- Final Clinical Eligibility
- Prescription

**ENROLLMENT**
- Client Comprehension Check
- Project Video
- Welcome Kit
- PrEP dispensing
- Diary, Hotline
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<th>Follow-up</th>
<th>Exit</th>
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226 participants screened
166 participants enrolled
54 participants marked ineligible
Principal Investigators

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THE 700+ ADVOCACY DRIVEN BEAUTIFUL VOLUNTEERS
Maraming salamat po!