

# Preparing for PrEP

A DISCUSSION FRAMEWORK FOR THE ROLLOUT AND SUPPORT OF  
HIV PREP IN THE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SECTOR IN AUSTRALIA



**ashm**

Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine

## Situation to date

### 1. Consumers in Australia can currently access PrEP through two mechanisms:

- Drugs can be prescribed 'off-label' with the purchase without subsidy; and then imported into Australia for private use under the Personal Importation Scheme.
- Consumers can seek enrolment in one of the current PrEP demonstration studies projects in Australia.

### 2. On 9 February 2018 PrEP was recommended for listing on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) meaning that they would (pending approval from the Minister for Health) be subsidised; able to be prescribed by all community GPs and Nurse Practitioners and also available for dispensing via community pharmacies.

### 3. The ASHM Australian National PrEP guidelines offer clear behavioural criteria that were utilised in the submission to the PBAC and guidance to the appropriate delivery of PrEP. Any individual who is on PrEP will need regular monitoring, prevention and adherence support, and will require maintenance prescriptions.

### 4. The transition from a trial environment to broader GP prescribing must be clear and smooth to ensure that the prevention of new HIV transmission continues.<sup>1</sup> ASHM and its Victorian partner the Victorian HIV and Hepatitis Integrated Training And Learning (VHHITAL) program, welcomes the streamlined approach recommended by PBAC with no required training for the workforce, however primary care services less experienced in HIV and/or sexual health will need to be appropriately trained and supported with clear referral pathways in place and the appropriate use of medicines maintained. Key issues for consideration include (in no particular order of priority):

- The need to involve community based pharmacies
- The need to ensure that stigma and discrimination is not a factor in accessing services or dispensing
- Ensure proper patient understanding
- Ensure that access is equitable especially where there are wait lists currently; consideration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and culturally and linguistically diverse communities; lower burden and regional/remote areas are addressed
- The need to ensure that sexual health screening, testing and treatment is incorporated and overburdened specialist services are not additionally stretched
- Nursing and other staff are supported to play a role in PrEP delivery
- Ensure where new HIV infections are diagnosed that appropriate referrals are made, engagement into care and education and support offered.
- Ensuring that pathology services are capacitated and able to respond appropriately

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<sup>1</sup> PrEP has been available to individuals in Australia via PrEP demonstration trials in all Australian States and Territories (except the Northern Territory) starting with the EPIC-NSW study in New South Wales in March 2016. There are currently 14,000 people on PrEP in Australia, approximately one half of the estimated number of eligible people for PrEP in Australia.

## ASHM Resources; Guidelines, Tools and Training

ASHM has been a clinical leader in PrEP resource development in Australia and to date, this work has been **largely unfunded**. ASHM recommends the following suite of resources/training to upskill and support the health care workforce in all states and territories<sup>2</sup>.

	<p>1. ASHM PrEP clinical guidelines Published in the Journal of Virus Eradication in 2017, authored by leading policy makers and clinicians in the Australian PrEP response. These guidelines require 6 monthly review in line with international recommendations and other published research. <a href="#">Access them here</a></p>
	<p>2. ASHM PrEP Decision Making Tool for clinicians A double-sided A4 document that provides a prescriber pathway to GPs and Practice Nurses when prescribing PrEP</p>
	<p>3. 2-hour PrEP Online Learning Module (OLM) RACGP QI&amp;CPD points accredited, suitable for GPs, s100 prescribers and nurses</p>
	<p>4. 2-hour PrEP face-to-face training For GPs and Practice nurses: A presentation providing guidance for clinicians wishing to prescriber PrEP. Adaptable to any Australian jurisdiction, recommended delivery method is as a 3-hour dinner update with a local speaker. RACGP QI&amp;CPD points and APNA accredited.</p>
	<p>5. 1-hour PrEP in-service A 1-hour peer-delivered session utilising the decision-making tool to provide guidance on the recommended prescribing pathway.</p>
	<p>6. STI testing – managing the patient on PrEP A 1-page resource available as PDF or printed postcard, providing guidance on STI testing at baseline and for ongoing monitoring for the PrEP patient</p>
	<p>7. 1-hour PrEP Basics Webinar – (clinical) For clinically trained workers who won't be prescribing but will be supporting PrEP patients in other ways (e.g. community pharmacists, phlebotomy staff, NDIS staff)</p>
	<p>8. 1-hour PrEP Basics Webinar – (non-clinical) Produced in collaboration with AFAO, this webinar addresses stigma and discrimination, a brief overview of HIV and non-clinical training for workers on PrEP</p>
	<p>9. PrEP clinical support information line This proposed service would require an on-call nurse with extensive experience in PrEP and HIV with support from a clinical advisor GP with PrEP prescribing experience.</p>

<sup>2</sup> Resources in blue have been published and require funding for updates, resources in orange are in production, resources in red are proposed and in the initial planning stage

## Collaboration

ASHM, VHHITAL<sup>3</sup> and ASHA<sup>4</sup> are ready to support the health workforce, through our resources and training, to be ready for these PBS changes – including GPs, community pharmacists, nurses and community service providers. ASHM and its partners are committed to expanding and furthering the role that all primary care providers have in supporting people both at-risk of HIV and those living with HIV, to be at the centre of managing their health and wellness.

ASHM proposes a partnership approach across the development, production and dissemination of these resources including peak community organisations, such as: **AFAO**<sup>5</sup> and **NAPWHA**<sup>6</sup>, professional bodies such as **RACGP**<sup>7</sup>, **RACP**<sup>8</sup> and other organisations and resources including **NPS Medicinewise**<sup>9</sup>, **MDBriefcase**<sup>10</sup>, **13 HEALTH**<sup>11</sup> etc. ASHM sees strength in collaboration and welcomes any new collaboration opportunities to support these resources.

## Funding

ASHM, VHHITAL and ASHA cannot deliver these resources without funding. ASHM, VHHITAL and ASHA bring clinical expertise and over 20 years' experience in delivering high quality resources to support the health care workforce. ASHM and VHHITAL are seeking financial support to deliver the above menu of resources to support this ground-breaking treatment in HIV prevention.

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<sup>3</sup> **VHHITAL (Victorian HIV and Hepatitis Integrated Training and Learning) program** is funded by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services, and is delivered and managed through a consortium comprising of North West Melbourne PHN (NWMPHN), ASHM, Alfred Health, and the Doherty Institute.

<sup>4</sup> **ASHA (The Australasian Sexual Health Alliance)** is a committee formed under the constitution of the Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine (ASHM) to facilitate multidisciplinary collaborations to support the Australasian sexual health workforce

<sup>5</sup> **AFAO (Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations)** is the national federation for the HIV community response providing leadership, coordination and support to Australia's policy and advocacy response.

<sup>6</sup> **NAPWHA (National Association of People with HIV Australia)** is Australia's peak non-government organisation representing community-based groups of people living with HIV.

<sup>7</sup> **RACGP (The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners)** is Australia's largest professional general practice organisation and represents urban and rural general practitioners.

<sup>8</sup> **RACP (The Australasian Sexual Health Alliance)** is a diverse and energetic organisation responsible for training, educating and representing over 25000 physicians and paediatricians in Australia and New Zealand.

<sup>9</sup> **NPS Medicinewise** is an independent, not-for-profit and evidence-based organisation that works to improve the way health technologies, medicines and medical tests are prescribed and used

<sup>10</sup> **MDBriefcase** is an independent provider of free accredited online medical education programs to over 40,000 Australian and New Zealand healthcare professionals (HCPs).

<sup>11</sup> **13 HEALTH** is a confidential phone service that provides health advice to Queenslanders.

## Proposed resource matrix

RESOURCE NAME	GPS	NURSES	PHARMACISTS	LABORATORY STAFF	COMMUNITY HEALTH/PEER WORKERS	FRONT OF HOUSE STAFF
ASHM <a href="#">PrEP clinical guidelines</a>	X	X	X	X	X	X
ASHM PrEP decision making tool for clinicians	X	X	X	n/a	n/a	n/a
2-hour PrEP online learning module (OLM)	X	X	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2-hour PrEP face to face training	X	X	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1-hour PrEP in service (clinical, peer delivered)	X	X	X	X	n/a	n/a
1-hour PrEP in service (non-clinical)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	X	X
STI testing – managing the patient on PrEP – 1-page resource	X	X	X	X	X	X
1-hour PrEP basics webinar – (clinical)	X	X	X	n/a	n/a	n/a
1-hour PrEP basics webinar – (non-clinical)	n/a	n/a	n/a	X	X	X
PrEP clinical support information line	X	X	X	X	X	X



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