

## **COMMUNITY BASED DELIVERY OF SAME DAY PREP**

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### **Background/Purpose:**

PrEP has been funded in New Zealand since 2018 with a target of 6000 High risk individuals. Uptake has been below expectations with concern that minority MSM populations are not being reached.

### **Approach:**

Community peer based testing is a discrete way to provide HIV testing to an audience that doesn't engage with their regular healthcare provider. By partnering with a GP clinic an innovative approach was initiated in May 2020 which enabled peer testers at Body Positive to provide immediate access to PrEP (iPrEP) for MSM at risk for HIV as identified through inconsistent condom use with casual partners. Following a negative HIV rapid test result and assessment a 10 day PrEP starter pack was provided to immediately start PrEP. Ongoing care is provided by the partner clinic with the first prescription being couriered after additional labs were reviewed

### **Outcomes/Impact:**

iPrEP enabled conversations with testers about PrEP to raise awareness and initiate PrEP if appropriate and desired. People could start immediately on iPrEP or be referred to their GP, sexual health or online clinics. 33 people engaged with iPrEP (48% European, 21% Maori, 27% Asian). 58% had not tried to access PrEP previously. 29% of people that had attempted to access PrEP had been denied. "Sexual health sent me to my GP. My GP said they didn't do it and this happened repeatedly over 2 years"

### **Innovation and Significance:**

iPrEP enables ease of discussion around PrEP in a discrete, trusted environment with no judgement. Clients that had given up on accessing PrEP due to barriers left the clinic with a starter pack successfully engaged in PrEP. The pilot project has expanded access to include Peer clinics at gay festivals and is planning clinics at sex on site venues. Barriers include GP Lack of knowledge / comfort prescribing through to judgement about PrEP and condomless intercourse.

### **Disclosure of Interest Statement:**

*No pharmaceutical grants were received.*