Integration of PrEP into the New Jersey HIV Prevention Portfolio

Division of HIV, STD and TB Services (DHSTTS)
HIV Testing Coordinator Annual Meeting
May 10, 2016

Steve Saunders, MS
Director, HIV Prevention, DHSTTS
Integration of PrEP into the New Jersey HIV Prevention Portfolio

HIV Pre Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) is the latest addition to the list of high impact HIV prevention strategies, and as such takes its place among HIV Testing and Linkage to Care as the most effective, science-based means to reduce HIV transmission.

The CDC, in Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, provides estimates of the proportion of Americans who are at substantial risk of HIV and should be counseled about PrEP.

These include about 25% of sexually active gay and bisexual adult men, nearly 20% of adults who inject drugs, and less than 1% of heterosexually active adults.

Daily PrEP can reduce the risk of getting HIV from male to male sex by more than 90%, and daily PrEP can reduce the risk of getting HIV among people who inject drugs by more than 70%.
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Appropriateness of PrEP is dependent upon HIV status – first and foremost. Must have proof of negative status so PrEP and HIV testing are interdependent.

Therefore, PrEP Integration is occurring at two levels:

1. At the time HIV Testing performed by HIV Test Counselors at CTS and other testing locations or by the PrEP Counselor on walk-ins
2. Specialized PrEP Counselors – you - provide specialized PrEP counseling to those identified as negative, but at significant risk of HIV infection by HIV Test Counselors and referred to you or to self-identified walk in clients resulting from your marketing efforts
New Jersey HIV PrEP Counselor Initiative

In early 2016, seven geographically disbursed HIV PrEP Demonstration Projects were established at three non healthcare settings that target gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GBO) and at four healthcare settings, including one STD clinic, two Infectious Disease Clinics and one pediatric practice with many HIV patients.

They joined one additional project that had been established in April, 2015 as an initial test of feasibility at an Infectious Disease Clinic. There are now a total of eight HIV PrEP Counselor Programs.
New Jersey HIV PrEP Counselor Initiative

North Jersey Community Research Institute (NJCRI)
PrEP Counselor: Joe Kipper
Phone: (C) (973)-483-3444 x203
Email: jkipper@njcri.org
PrEP Counselor Back Up: Julio Roman
Phone: (C), (O) 973-483-3444 x 251
Email: jroman@njcri.org

University Hospital, Div. of Adolescent Medicine
PrEP Counselor: Persephine Weeks
Phone: (C) , (O) 973-972-8216
Email: weekspl@njms.rutgers.edu
PrEP Counselor Back Up: Khalil S. Rashidi
Phone: (C) , (O) 973-972-1468
Email: rashidks@njms.rutgers.edu

University Hospital, Infectious Disease
PrEP Counselor: Isabel Arroyo
Phone: (C) , (O) 973-972-9827
Email: ia190@njms.rutgers.edu
PrEP Counselor Back Up: Shobha Swaminathan
Phone: (C) , (O) 973-972-8216
Email: swaminsh@njms.rutgers.edu

Camden AHEC
PrEP Counselor: Michael Anthony
Phone: (C) , (O) 856-763-2432 x223
Email: anthony.m@camden-ahec.org
PrEP Counselor Back Up: Martha Chavis
Phone: (C) , (O)
Email: chavis.m@camden-ahec.org

Newark STD Clinic
PrEP Counselor: Geraldine Brown
Phone: (C) , (O) 973-877-6156
Email: browneg@ci.newark.nj.us
PrEP Counselor Back Up: Hannah Hamdi
Phone: (C) , (O)
Email: hamdh@ci.newark.nj.us

St. Michael's Medical Center
PrEP Counselor: Juan Lorenzo
Phone: (C) , (O) 973-877-2479
Email: mlorenzo@mmcnj.org
PrEP Counselor Back Up: Melanie Greenleaf
Phone: (C) , (O)
Email: MGreenleaf@mmcnj.org

Visiting Nurse Association of Central New Jersey
PrEP Counselor: Tyler "Tank" Teachworth
Phone: (C) , (O) 908-309-8578
Email: Tyler.Teachworth@vnahg.org
PrEP Counselor Back Up: Shannon Preston
Phone: (C) , (O)
Email: Shannon.Preston@VNACNJ.org

Atlanticare
PrEP Counselor: Eviliz Robles
Phone: (C) , (O) 609-441-8991
Email: eviliz.robles@atlanticare.org
PrEP Counselor Back Up: Jean Haspel
Phone: (C) , (O)
Email: Jean.Haspel@atlanticare.org

6/1/2016
RFA for DHSTS HIV Prevention Services was issued in February, 2016 for HIV prevention projects with a July 1, 2016 start date.

Based on the early success of the demonstration projects, and lessons learned, it is a goal of this RFA to increase the availability of HIV PrEP Counselor services in New Jersey.
WHAT DOES THE ADDITION OF PrEP MEAN FOR HIV TEST COUNSELORS?

- HIV Test Counselors will be incorporating PrEP education and referral into their testing sessions.

- PrEP is NOT for every negative client, but rather for negative individuals at substantially increased risk of HIV infection.

- Counselors will perform brief risk assessments to determine whether or not a negative client should be referred to a PrEP Counselor.

- The HIV Counselor curriculum is currently in the process of being updated to include PrEP for future counselor trainings.

- A brief stand-alone “PrEP Update” on-line module is also under development; existing HIV Test Counselors will be required to take this PrEP Update only.
New Jersey HIV Test Counseling Integration

PrEP Risk Assessment for HIV Test Counselors

- The “HIV Test Counselor PrEP Risk Assessment” is already available and has been distributed in your packets.

- The benefits of PrEP are dependent on the negative client’s risk factors and HIV prevalence which vary from population to population.

- Given the limited capacity of the PrEP Counselor network, the HIV Test Counselor plays a critical role in ensuring that those at substantially increased risk of HIV infection have the opportunity to meet with a PrEP Counselor as soon as possible.

- The PrEP Risk Assessment tools are intended to assist HIV Test Counselors in that role by making the most critical referrals to the PrEP Counselors. (NOTE: Some clients may persist in wanting a PrEP Counselor referral despite “failing” the assessment—they may not be fully disclosing risk and should be provided the referral in these cases.)
New Jersey HIV PrEP Counselor Initiative