



HYPHEN HEALTH

0492 882 354

james@hyphen.health

PO Box 275, Singleton, NSW 2330

ABN: 77646122910

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media release

PrEP Shortage in Australia Sparks HIV Prevention Crisis

SYDNEY, Australia, 3rd September 2024 - On the eve of World Sexual Health Day, Australia's largest online sexual health group [PrEP Health](#) has been advised that they cannot access pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for their clients due to a nationwide medication shortage, with all four pharmaceutical sponsors indicating limited or no supply.

"At PrEP Health, we are proud to supply prescriptions for thousands of Aussies who rely on this life-saving medication daily. This shortage doesn't impact our ability to facilitate prescriptions, sexual health testing or sexual health appointments" James Sneddon, CEO of PrEP Health confirmed.

"We're working closely with our pharmacy partners, Healthsmart Pharmacy, Australia's largest supplier of PrEP to secure an interim supply, but if this is not attained by the end of the week we will unfortunately need to freeze our delivery option until supply is certain". Sneddon continued.

A recent study showed that close to 70,000 people have been dispensed PrEP between 2018 - 2023 with a median age of 33 and the majority receiving it more than once*. Another study also highlighted that an estimated 2,630 people living with HIV in the community were unaware of their status+

PrEP is a medical breakthrough in the field of HIV and is widely thought to have helped curb infection rates and continue to, along with wider education. PrEP is a combination of two medications, co-formulated tenofovir, and emtricitabine, combined in one pill for use by people at risk of HIV infection. Upon contact with the HIV virus, the components of PrEP block the enzyme needed for the virus to replicate in the body. When used correctly, it eliminates the risk of acquiring the virus after exposure and is effective in 99% of cases.

"Our fear is that we run the risk of seeing a spike in HIV infections without this crucial medication available - Australians deserve a health system that gives them access to the medications they need when they need it," Sneddon said.





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PrEP Access Now (PAN) is advising several options including considering local pharmacies and PrEP on-demand which reduces the frequency of dose however this isn't suitable for everyone depending on personal health circumstances and consultation with a health professional is required.

According to the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#), more than 1 million STIs are acquired every day worldwide, the majority of which are asymptomatic – meaning someone might not even be aware they have an STI because they aren't showing any obvious symptoms.

--ENDS--

References:

* Medland N et al. *HIV Incidence in Users of HIV Preexposure Prophylaxis in Australia: A Whole-of-Population Analysis*. Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections, Denver, abstract 166, 2024.

+ HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections in Australia Annual surveillance report 2022 - HIV

MEDIA CONTACT

For any questions in relation to this release or to discuss interviews, please contact:

Nicole Papoutsis

nicole@hyphen.health

0422 418 099

About PrEP Health

Established in 2015 by practitioner Dr Mitchell Tanner and rugby-playing accountant and entrepreneur James Sneddon, these two blokes are on a mission to make sexual health sexy.

We know most people aren't keen on visiting the GP to discuss the intimate details of their lifestyles and sex lives. This is why we're offering PrEP online, so it's as easy as it can be. You can get PrEP without the usual rigmarole of: needing a trip to the doctor, follow up visits for test results and finally after all of that time and divulging – you finally get your hands on PrEP. With us, it's simple and hassle-free. Our online Doctors are discreet and experienced in sexual health. You won't have any face-to-face conversations, and you'll know you're in the hands of non-judgmental, caring medical professionals who support your choice to access the vital medication you need. Visit www.prep.health today!

