

A call from WAVE to collaborate on PrEP for women

Women accounted for over one-third of all new HIV diagnosis in Europe in 2018, with a high proportion of women being diagnosed late [1].

In 2015, WHO recommended that PrEP should be offered as a prevention option to all people at substantial risk of HIV acquisition, irrespective of gender [2]. These recommendations were based on a systematic review and meta-analysis of high-quality PrEP efficacy studies documenting the effectiveness and safety of PrEP across heterogeneous populations when taken with high adherence, with no difference in effectiveness by sex [3].

PrEP can offer cis and trans women an effective, female-controlled HIV prevention choice [4]. But implementation of PrEP among women has been limited [5].

Accessibility of PrEP for all women in Europe is still very limited and not equitable to the access available for men who have sex with men. In addition, there is a lack of awareness of PrEP use in cis and trans women and there is a general lack of available information for its use in this context. Furthermore, few guidelines specifically provide advice for the use of PrEP in women [6].

WAVE would like advocate for an online resource on PrEP and women. From our experience, we know that broaching the topic of HIV risk with women can be challenging and an online platform might provide a useful tool for clinicians, especially for those less confident in discussing HIV. We are looking to work with groups who may already be providing online tools for women seeking PrEP or which can augment healthcare services seeking to support women at risk of HIV acquisition. WAVE could support the development of information for and identification of women who need PrEP, but also can help to address stigma, which can be a major obstacle for seeking PrEP.

For further information or an informal discussion about possible collaboration please contact WaveSecretariat@eacsociety.org

References

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