



**AWTTC**

All Wales Therapeutics & Toxicology Centre  
Canolfan Therapiwteg a Thocsicoleg Cymru Gyfan



Grŵp Strategaeth Meddyginiaethau Cymru Gyfan  
All Wales Medicines Strategy Group

## Provision of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV prevention in Wales April 2020

### **Recommendation:**

Emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil is recommended for use within NHS Wales in combination with safer sex practices for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to reduce the risk of sexually acquired HIV-1 infection in adults at high risk. Adults at high risk include the following populations:

- men who have sex with other men (MSM) and transgender people having sex with men who are engaging in condomless anal sex.
- heterosexual and same-sex, HIV-1 negative partners who are in relationships with HIV-1 positive partners whose viral replication is not suppressed.
- other heterosexuals considered to be at high risk.

Emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil should be prescribed on the basis of lowest acquisition cost.

### **Background**

Oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is a combination of two antiretroviral medicines, emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil, taken daily to prevent the acquisition of HIV-1 infection and is used in combination with a comprehensive HIV-1 prevention package. Generic PrEP (emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil) was licensed for use in the UK in 2018.

In April 2017, AWMSG appraised emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (Truvada®) in combination with safer sex practices for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to reduce the risk of sexually acquired HIV-1 infection in adults at high risk. At the time of the appraisal, Truvada® was the first and only licensed medicine for this indication in the UK. AWMSG's decision was that Truvada® is not recommended for use within NHS Wales for this indication as the case for cost-effectiveness was not proven. Based on clinical effectiveness evidence Welsh Government subsequently chose to make PrEP available via a pilot scheme named the PrEPARED trial; this scheme was scheduled to run for three years, until July 2020. All eligible people in Wales have been able to access PrEP via the PrEPARED trial since this time, supported by an independent HIV expert group. Interim data from the PrEPARED trial, between July 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 and September 30<sup>th</sup> 2019, indicated that 65% of those eligible for PrEP had started it (n = 1280) and 43% of those starting PrEP remain on it (n = 556). There have been no new HIV-1 diagnoses reported in people taking PrEP, and 356 people were diagnosed with 612 episodes of sexually transmitted infections while on PrEP. Data from the trial are overall in line with those expected for Wales and surveillance continues through Public Health Wales.

AWMSG's appraisal of Truvada® in 2017 received a negative recommendation based on cost-effectiveness. AWMSG's original decision was influenced by a number of factors, including but not limited to: uncertainties around efficacy, utility values, background infection rates, and the lack of value for money offered at that time. The interim data collected in Wales via the PrEPARED trial addresses some of the uncertainty around the efficacy of PrEP. These new data together with the introduction of generic emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil, offered at a significantly lower acquisition cost in Wales, means that, in combination with a comprehensive HIV-1 prevention package, PrEP is likely to offer cost-effective pre-exposure prophylaxis, reducing the risk of sexually acquired HIV-1 infection in adults at high risk. [Commercial in confidence, information removed].



**PAMS**

Patient Access to Medicines Service  
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PrEP is now established practice in Wales. PrEP has been available in Scotland since July 2017. Access to PrEP in England was initially through the three-year PrEP IMPACT trial in September 2017. Routine commissioning of PrEP in England will be available from April 2020.