The Emerging Role of Pharmacies in Expanding Access to PrEP

Presenters:

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Jessi Truelove, PharmD, AAHIVP (AHF Pharmacy)
Michael Barnes, MSc (Washington State Department of Health)
Teah Hoopes, MPH (Public Health Seattle & King County)
## Overview for Today

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4:25 – 4:45</td>
<td>Pharmacy Integration into PrEP and ART Provision and Retention (PIPAR) and the PrEP Pharmacy Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:45 – 5:35</td>
<td>Essential Components of a PrEP Pharmacy Program - <em>Group Activity and Discussion</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>5:35 – 5:45</td>
<td>Challenges and Lessons Learned</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:45 – 6:00</td>
<td>Q&amp;A</td>
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<td>6:00</td>
<td>Close</td>
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PrEP Access in Washington State
PrEP Uptake in Washington State Varies by Region

King County: 37% using PrEP and 36% interested*

Other Western Washington: 20% using PrEP and 41% interested*

Eastern Washington: 22% using PrEP and 47% interested*

*Among high-risk men who have sex with men (MSM)

Rao D et al, CFAR Sociobehavioral and Prevention Research Core and Public Health - Seattle/King County HIV/STD Program. 2017
Pharmacists' role in addressing PrEP needs in Washington

What is needed:

- Expand PrEP access and improve retention
  - Increased access in regions with poor PrEP coverage (PrEP deserts).
- More and varied entry points to care.
- Flexible hours (evenings, weekends, walk-in).
- Decoupled from other medical care.

- More outreach and education

“... pharmacies are the front door to the health system. They’re often where people start their health care journey and are a gateway to connection with other health care services.”

-Lucas Berenbrok, Pharm.D.
Activity: Pharmacists and You

With a partner, discuss where your closest pharmacy is, what type of pharmacy it is, do you have or know your pharmacist?
Pharmacy Integration into PrEP and ART Provision and Retention (PIPAR) and the PrEP Pharmacy Programs
Pharmacy Integration into PrEP and ART Provision and Retention (PIPEAR) Demonstration Project (2017-2021)

• 4-year Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-funded Demonstration Project (currently in 1-year no-cost extension)

• Objective: Integrate pharmacies into public health efforts to expand PrEP and promote PrEP and HIV retention.
PrEP Pharmacy Program
Model: Initial Visit

Initial Visit

Intake & Assessment → Rapid HIV Test (Finger Prick) → Blood Draw* → Counseling & Education → Same-day PrEP

*Treatment for STI (gonorrhea and chlamydia) can be provided at pharmacy
PrEP Pharmacy Program Model: Follow-up care

- Abnormal labs and issues identified during assessments or counseling may require referral. Referrals and reports are sent to:
  - Clinicians and Providers
  - Local Health Jurisdictions
  - PrEP Navigation Agencies
PrEP Pharmacy Programs

AHF Pharmacy (Seattle, WA)

Safeway Pharmacy (Federal Way, WA)

Acts Pharmacy and Healthcare Services (Tacoma, WA)

Safeway Pharmacy (Lakewood, WA)

New Pharmacies Launching in Fall/Winter 2022

Living HIV Cases (2018)
## PrEP Pharmacy Program Outcomes (March – September 2022)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PrEP Prescribed</th>
<th>N (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial Visit</td>
<td>10 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-month</td>
<td>7 (70%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-month</td>
<td>4 (40%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-month</td>
<td>1 (10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PrEP stopped</td>
<td>1 (10%)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pharmacy Location</th>
<th>N (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seattle, WA</td>
<td>8 (80%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tacoma, WA</td>
<td>2 (20%)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>N (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>2 (20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>8 (80%)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>N (%)</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>2 (20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>7 (70%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiracial</td>
<td>1 (10%)</td>
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<th>Gender</th>
<th>N (%)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>8 (80%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transgender</td>
<td>1 (10%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nonbinary</td>
<td>1 (10%)</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>N (%)</th>
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<tr>
<td>18-26</td>
<td>4 (40%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>27-35</td>
<td>3 (30%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36-44</td>
<td>2 (20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-55</td>
<td>1 (10%)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk</th>
<th>N (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIV+ partner</td>
<td>1 (10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STI in last 6 months</td>
<td>4 (40%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low/no condom use</td>
<td>6 (60%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men who have sex with men (MSM)</td>
<td>7 (70%)</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Insurance/Payment</th>
<th>N (%)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Medicaid</td>
<td>2 (20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td>5 (50%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PrEP DAP</td>
<td>4 (40%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uninsured</td>
<td>1 (10%)</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Referrals/Reporting</th>
<th>N (%)</th>
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<tr>
<td>PrEP Navigator</td>
<td>1 (10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ STI Cases</td>
<td>1 (10%)</td>
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AHF Pharmacy

• Overview:
  • Launched March 2022
  • Located in Seattle, WA

• PrEP Program Outcomes:
  • 8 patients have initiated PrEP
  • 7 patients retained in care
  • 4 patients retained in care for >3 months
  • 4 patients vaccinated against Hepatitis B
  • 0 positive HIV or STI cases
Acts Pharmacy and Healthcare Services

• Overview:
  • Launched March 2022
  • Located in Tacoma, WA

• PrEP Program Outcomes:
  • 2 patients have initiated PrEP
  • 2 patients retained in care
  • 1 patient connected to PrEP Navigation
  • 1 positive STI case reported to LHJ and connected to care
Acts Pharmacy and Healthcare Services

Patient Vignette

Patient came into the pharmacy for a monkeypox vaccination. Pharmacist talked to the patient about their PrEP pharmacy program. Patient then completed the online interest form.

Patient was connected with a PrEP Navigator for medical financial assistance, after which, the patient was scheduled for their initial PrEP visit at the pharmacy and patient initiated PrEP the same day.
Safeway Pharmacies

Overview:
- Launched February 2022
- Two locations: Federal Way, WA & Lakewood, WA

PrEP Program Experience
- Pharmacists excitedly awaiting first patients!
- Locations added to county and state PrEP provider lists.
- Information shared via social media, health fairs, and local street fairs.
- In the process of setting up PrEP DAP billing.
- Exploring new opportunities to raise awareness and decrease patient cost.
Essential Components of a PrEP Pharmacy Program
PrEP Pharmacy Program Components

- Collaborative Drug Therapy Agreement (CDTA) & Authorizing Prescriber
- Local Health Jurisdiction (LHJ): Reporting & Referral System
- HIV & STI Training for Pharmacists
- Private Consult Room
- Contract with Lab
- Billing (Process, Software)
- PrEP Navigation Process
- Marketing, Promotion

REQUIRED

PUBLIC HEALTH
Seattle & King County
The Collaborative Drug Therapy Agreement (CDTA)

- A CDTA is a signed agreement between one licensed healthcare provider (the Authorized Prescriber) and one or more pharmacists (WAC 246-945-350)

- Oversight: Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission (PQAC), Department of Health

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HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Collaborative Drug Therapy Agreement Protocol

**Authorized Prescriber:** Matthew Golden, MD, MPH is an active, licensed physician authorized to prescribe medications in Washington State, and working in the Public Health – Seattle & King County STD Clinic. The authority granted here is within the scope of his current practice.

**Pharmacists:** The pharmacists who are party to this agreement, _____________ are licensed pharmacists who work at _____________ Pharmacy in _________ WA.

**Time Period:** This agreement shall remain in effect for two years unless rescinded earlier in writing by either the authorized practitioner or by the individual pharmacist(s). Any changes in the protocol or procedures described below must be made via a substitute written agreement.

**Type of Prescriptive Authority:** To help prevent HIV infection, this agreement enables the pharmacists to both initiate and modify drug therapy for patients/customers 35kg and over who are at risk for HIV to obtain PrEP medication, and to provide appropriate, ongoing monitoring. The pharmacists are hereby authorized to prescribe and administer medications and order labs necessary for HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) with emtricitabine-tenofovir disoproxil fumarate according to the protocol below. Under consultation with Dr. Golden only, the pharmacists are also authorized to prescribe emtricitabine and tenofovir alafenamide.

This protocol is in accordance with local standards of care, and the laws and regulations of the State of Washington (RCW Chapter 18.64. WAC 246-945-350). Pharmacists providing HIV PrEP services under this protocol will follow these procedures as the standard of care.

**Protocol:**

1. When a patient requests HIV PrEP or is referred to the pharmacy for HIV PrEP consultation, the pharmacist initially will:
   1. Assess the patient's risk for HIV acquisition;
   2. Assess the patient's underlying medical conditions, current medications, drug allergies, immunization history, and risk for bacterial sexually transmitted infections (STI);
   3. Assess for signs and symptoms of acute HIV infection (i.e., fever, particularly if accompanied with sore throat, persistent fatigue, rash, or diarrhea, and sexual- or injection-exposure in the last 4-6 weeks).

   If the patient has signs or symptoms of acute HIV infection, the pharmacist shall not prescribe PrEP but rather shall take the following actions immediately:
Interaction with LHJs: Reporting and Referrals

- Setting up a referral system with the LHJ can be mutually beneficial.

- Understanding local laws/policies for reporting of HIV, STI, and infectious diseases is critical (WAC 246-101).
Training: What is needed?

Initial Visit

Intake & Assessment → Rapid HIV Test (Finger Prick) → Blood Draw → Counseling & Education → Same-day PrEP

TRAINING NEEDS:

Clinical Assessment & Intake → Clinical Finger Prick → Phlebotomy Lab Ordering Lab Reading → Stigma-free Sex Counseling → Credentialing & Billing
HIV/STI Training for Pharmacists

- National HIV and PrEP Curriculum (hiv.uw.edu)
- PIPAR PrEP Pharmacy Training Series: 5-part video training series
- Mountain West AIDS Education & Training Center Program (MWAETC)
- Washington State Pharmacy Association (WSPA)
Contracting with a Lab and Conducting the Rapid HIV Test

- Lab can bill most commercial and public plans
- Lab can process required panel of labs*
- Portal/Account for lab results
- Ensure Medical Test Site Certificate of Waiver License (CLIA Waiver) is in place for Rapid HIV Test

*Cost of lab services can be negotiated based on how many patients the clinic sees
Electronic Health Record or Panel Management System

- A PrEP Pharmacy Program will collect the following types of health information:
  - Demographics
  - Medical History, Sexual History
  - Sexual Health Risk Assessment
  - Lab Results
  - Medication and Immunization Administration
  - PrEP prescription
  - PrEP discontinuation
PrEP Navigation

- PrEP Navigators can promote retention within a PrEP Pharmacy Program. Pharmacists attempt to link all PrEP clients to a PrEP Navigator.

- PrEP Navigation is the provision of: Health education, risk reduction, health insurance enrollment, payor program navigation, medication adherence support & counseling, etc.

PrEP Navigation Services

Promoting and Improving PrEP Adherence among Your Patients

Although PrEP is highly effective at preventing HIV infection and resources exist for most to attain it, the attrition of patients is very high due to a complicated and confusing process for accessing and staying on PrEP (insurance, etc.). PrEP Navigators can help your patients with confusing applications and processes related to accessing and staying on PrEP. Contact a PrEP Navigator below for assistance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lifelong</th>
<th>Pierce County AIDS Foundation (PCAF)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phone: (206) 957-1610</td>
<td>Phone: (253) 693-0225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax: (206) 257-3300</td>
<td>Fax: (253) 597-6682</td>
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PrEP Navigation Overview:

- PrEP Navigators are located within the community, at PrEP Navigation agencies across the state.
- PrEP Navigators can help with financial assistance applications, enrollment into the PrEP Drug Assistance Program (PrEP DAP), Gilead Advancing Access, Apple Health/Medicaid, and other health insurance plans.
- Navigators will have ongoing interaction and continued engagement with patients, ensuring they receive regular HIV testing, medical care, and adhere to PrEP medication.
- PrEP Navigators provide the following:
  - Linkage to health insurance and/or other financial resources, including application assistance and monitoring.
Billing for Medical Services

- In Washington state, pharmacists can become credentialed to bill for medical services. (ESSB 5557)

- Washington State’s PrEP Drug Assistance Program (PrEP DAP) is a patient assistance fund that pharmacists and patients can use to help cover costs of medical services.

- Billing for medical services will be a new learning for pharmacists.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEDS/DRUG</th>
<th>LABS</th>
<th>SERVICES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Who Bills:</td>
<td>Pharmacy</td>
<td>Lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bills To:</td>
<td>PBM</td>
<td>Health Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billing Code(s)</td>
<td>NDC</td>
<td>CPT/ICD/HCPCS</td>
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Marketing & Promotions

- Promoting a PrEP Pharmacy Program
- Social Media
- Hook-up Apps
- Community Outreach
- In-Reach
- Targeted Radio Ads
Marketing & Promotions

Start PrEP for HIV prevention today.
Now available at select local pharmacies in King and Pierce counties.

DID YOU KNOW?
Taking a pill a day can prevent HIV!

You can see a pharmacist to start PrEP today!

Start PrEP for HIV prevention today.
Now available at select local pharmacies in King and Pierce counties.

For more information on participating pharmacies, scan the QR code or visit: www.doh.wa.gov/HIVPrePPharmacy

Public Health
Seattle & King County
Activity: Anatomy of a PrEP Pharmacy Program
Challenges and Lessons Learned
Challenges

• Required knowledge, resources, and expertise from multiple agencies and organizations (lengthy planning/implementation period).

• Difficulty getting patients into programs once launched.

• Need for more training and education resources on credentialing and billing processes.

• Onsite blood-draw model may not be feasible for some pharmacies.
Lessons Learned

• Not a rapid intervention.

• Establish point of contact with pharmacy commissions, boards, and major stakeholders early.

• Start marketing and promotion efforts early.

• Define clear roles & responsibilities with community partners (referring sites, PrEP Navigators) early.

• More outcomes data and evaluation are needed to understand if pharmacy-based PrEP delivery is an effective intervention.
Q&A
Thank You!

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Resources

- Credentialing and Pharmacist’s Provider Status in Washington State:
  - Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 5557: https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=5557&Year=2015&Initiative=False
- Training and Educational Resources:
  - PIPAR PrEP Pharmacy Training Modules: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvdmG8argQHnq-W2mw2VJg_3PFr_LJM9e
  - National HIV Curriculum: https://www.hiv.uw.edu/
  - Washington State Pharmacy Association’s Billing for Patient Care Services: https://www.wspax.org/page/BillingServices
  - Mountain West AIDS Education & Training Center Program: https://mwaetc.org/
- Communicable Diseases Reporting Requirements in Washington State: https://doh.wa.gov/public-health-healthcare-providers/notifiable-conditions/how-report-posters

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