

Supplementary Material

‘I make sure my doctor doesn’t know that I use meth’: perceived barriers to pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) uptake among community peer educators in Seattle (WA, USA)

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Discussion Guide for Focus Groups with NEON Peer Educators

Introduction *(this section will be the same for each focus group)*

Thank you for participating in this activity. We are excited to continue our conversation about what transgender men and women and cisgender men who have sex with men who are using PrEP think about PrEP, what information they have heard about it, and whether or not there is an interest in using PrEP for HIV prevention in this community. As peer educators, your thoughts and opinions are very valuable and will help us understand how PrEP is being thought about among your contacts. We really appreciate you taking the time to talk with us today. This conversation should take approximately 1 hour.

We will audio-record the conversation. We are doing this so that we can listen to the recording and create a written transcript of the conversation. This way we can capture all of the details of the conversation. We ask that during this discussion you try not to use your real name or the real name of anyone else in this room, or the real name of any outreach contacts, to help ensure their confidentiality. In order to help us not use real names, we ask that you write a fake name on the paper that is sitting in front of you and then turn it around so it faces outwards so everyone in the room can see it. This way if someone wants to address you during the conversation, they can use that name. No names will be included on the transcript of this discussion, so if someone's real name is used during the discussion by mistake, it will not be recorded on the transcript. Once the transcript is completed, we will delete the audio recording. *[The facilitator will pause while the focus group participants write a name on the paper in front of them and place it facing outwards.]*

Please remember, that participating in this focus group discussion is completely voluntary. You may decide to not answer any of the questions that we ask and can leave at any time. Please also remember to be as honest as possible; there are no "right" or "wrong" answers. My job tonight is to help facilitate the discussion. I am eager to hear from everyone and learn from your experiences.

Does anyone have any questions or concerns about tonight's discussion? *[The facilitator will answer any questions that arise.]* Okay, thank you. I am going to start recording the discussion now. *[The facilitator will turn on the audio recorder.]*

Note: the following questions are a guide for the facilitator. Depending on the conversation, the facilitator may not ask a question, ask questions in a different order, or ask a question that is responsive to the conversation that may not be included in this guide. At all times the facilitator will be responsive to what the participants share and any questions that may arise. The prompts are included to help the facilitator narrow a question or ask it in a different way to help understandability or elicit responses.

Questions about Knowledge, Access, and Interest in PrEP to be Asked at all Focus Groups

- What information about PrEP do you think is out there among gay, bi, and transmale/female meth users in Seattle?
 - *Prompts:*
 - *Do you think people know what PrEP is?*
 - *Do you think people think it is safe? Effective?*
 - *Do you think it is safe? Effective?*
 - *Do you have any examples of conversations you have had with people about what PrEP is? Would you please describe them?*

- Where do you think that meth users are getting information about PrEP?
 - *Prompts:*
 - *NEON, Public Health Department, STD Clinic, their providers?*
 - *Online?*

- What information about PrEP do you think meth users particularly need? What would be the best way to provide this information?

- Do you think that PrEP could be a good HIV prevention strategy for gay, bi, and transmale/female meth users in Seattle?
 - *Prompts:*
 - *What are some reasons you would not want to promote PrEP?*
 - *What are some reasons you would want to promote PrEP?*
 - *What are some advantages and disadvantages of PrEP that you have heard from others about using PrEP?*
 - *Safety?*
 - *Concerns with taking PrEP and using at the same time?*
 - *Changes in risk behavior?*
 - *Being able to have continued access?*
 - *Stigma when meeting with a provider?*

- Do you think that meth users in Seattle are interested in taking PrEP? Why or why not?
 - *Prompts:*
 - *Not being worried about HIV?*
 - *Preventing HIV is not a priority?*
 - *Using other HIV prevention strategies?*

- What other services should be provided at a PrEP clinic that serves meth users?

Focus Group # 1: Examples of Specific Questions (Brainstorm Materials)

- What information do you think that meth-users in Seattle need about PrEP?
 - *Prompts:*
 - *Information about its safety? Efficacy?*
 - *Information about where to get it? How to pay for it?*
 - *Information about how to use it once they start PrEP?*
- What would be the best materials to provide this information to meth users? What would they look like?
 - *Prompts:*
 - *Palm cards, flyers, brochures, posters?*
 - *What kind of images should be used? Color scheme?*
- Where should these materials be placed?
 - *Prompts:*
 - *Bathhouse/sex club?*
 - *Online? If so, what sites?*
 - *Other venues?*
- How should these materials be provided to meth users? To your contacts?
 - *Prompts:*
 - *Handed out in-person?*
 - *Placed somewhere for people to obtain on their own?*
 - *Provided with other harm reduction services and materials?*

Focus Group # 2: Examples of Specific Questions (Material Review)

- How do the materials we developed look?
 - *Prompts:*
 - *Do you like the way they appear?*
 - *Do you like the color? Format? Shape and size?*
- Does the content reflect the information you think meth users need about PrEP? Is it relevant?
 - *Prompt:*
 - *What information do you think these materials provide?*
 - *What information do you think is not covered that is needed?*
- Are the materials understandable?
 - *Prompt:*
 - *Are there phrases or words that do not make sense to you?*
 - *Could we say things in a more understandable way? If so, how?*

Focus Group # 3: Examples of Specific Questions (Experience Piloting Materials)

- Did you use the materials we developed? Did people take them?
 - *Prompts:*
 - *How often did you use them?*

- *How many people do you think received them over the past 3 months?*
- What was your experience using the materials we developed?
 - *Prompts:*
 - *Did people give you any feedback about them? Ask any follow-up questions?*
 - *Did they help you in conversations with your contacts? How?*
- Do you think that anyone who took a card started PrEP?
- Would you make any changes or improvements to them based on your experience using them?
 - *Prompts:*
 - *Any content changes? Formatting?*
 - *Should they be placed somewhere else?*

Thank you very much for sharing your thoughts and opinions!