

Information for EPIC-NSW Study Participants: Transition from receiving study PrEP to receiving PrEP outside the EPIC-NSW Study

Dear EPIC-NSW Participant

On 21 March 2018, the the Australian Government announced that PrEP will be listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme (PBS) on 1 April 2018. This means if you have a Medicare card you will be able to get PrEP at a subsidised cost from a community pharmacy. You will still need doctor's prescription.

The EPIC-NSW Study will stop recruitment on 30 April 2018. To continue taking PrEP you will need to talk to your doctor and obtain a script to:

- Purchase PrEP via the PBS at subsidised price, if you have a Medicare card (currently at \$39.5 per month, or \$6.40 per month for those with a Health Care Card), or
- Purchase PrEP at full price in Australia if you are not eligible for Medicare, or
- Purchase PrEP online overseas by self-importation.

Did you enrol in EPIC-NSW *before* 1 March 2017?

If you enrolled in EPIC-NSW before 1 March 2017, you were offered PrEP for 2 years. Your clinician will provide you with your last script for the study PrEP at your Month 21 study visit. At your last study visit (at Month 24) if you wish to continue to receive PrEP outside the study, your clinician will provide you with a script for PrEP via PBS at subsidised price if you are Medicare eligible, or a script to purchase PrEP in Australia at full price or purchase PrEP online overseas by self-importation.

Alternatively, you can leave the study any time after 1 April 2018 (date of the PBS listing) to obtain PrEP via the PBS at subsidised price if you wish. You should still see your doctor every 3 months to obtain another script and test for HIV, kidney function and STIs as part of your routine care. Talk with your clinician for your ongoing access to PrEP.

Did you enrol in EPIC-NSW *after* 1 March 2017?

If you were enrolled after 1 March 2017, you will be given your last 3 months of study PrEP at your first study visit that falls after 30 April 2018. At this final study visit, your clinician will also discuss with you the options (described above) available to you accessing PrEP outside the study. The next time you go back to the clinic, your clinician will provide you with a script for PrEP via PBS at subsidised price if you are Medicare eligible, or a script to purchase PrEP in Australia at full price if you are not eligible for Medicare, or purchase PrEP online overseas via self-importation. Talk with your clinician for your ongoing access to PrEP.

Did you enrol in EPIC-NSW between 1 April and 30th April 2018?

If you were enrolled between 1 April and 30 April 2018, you will be provided with one month of study PrEP first and return to the clinic for your Month 1 visit. At the Month 1 visit (your final study visit), you will be provided with 3 months of study PrEP if the clinician has no concern of your adherence or drug toxicity. At this final study visit, your clinician will also discuss with you the

Information for EPIC-NSW Study Participants: Transition from receiving study PrEP to receiving PrEP outside the EPIC-NSW Study, v1.0, dated 26th March 2018

options (described above) available to you accessing PrEP outside the study. The next time you go back to the clinic, your clinician will provide you with a script for PrEP via PBS at subsidised price if you are Medicare eligible, or a script to purchase PrEP in Australia at full price if you are not eligible for Medicare, or purchase PrEP online overseas via self- importation. Talk with your clinician for your ongoing access to PrEP.

Where can I obtain a script for PrEP after I finish participating in the EPIC-NSW Study?

You can go back to your EPIC clinic or visit any doctor at a general practice (please call them to confirm they can prescribe PrEP) to obtain a script and test for HIV, STIs and kidney function.

Where can I get my PrEP when EPIC is finished?

You can take your script to any community pharmacy to pick up your PrEP tablets. It's a good idea to phone the pharmacy first to check that they have PrEP in stock. It may take a few days to obtain your stock, you will need to plan ahead in order not to run out of PrEP tablets. One tablet should be taken every day.

The PrEP tablets you purchase outside the EPIC-NSW study may not look the same (shape or colour) as your study PrEP because they may be manufactured by a different drug company. If you have any concerns talk with your clinician.

Please talk to your clinician if you would like more information or visit www.EPICNSW-Study.org.au

If you live in NSW, you can also call the NSW Sexual Health Infolink on 1800 451 624 for information on where to access PrEP.