### PrEP Hype & Hope

Implications of PrEP for People Living With HIV

July 5-6 2010

GNP+ Consultation: Implication of New Prevention Technology (NPT) Research and Development for People Living with HIV

Ebony Johnson, ICW Global

PrEP has the potential to lower new infections and reduce stigma

- HIV disclosure may become less stressful with the advent of a prevention mechanism (PrEP) allowing PLWHIV to have "safe" and fulfilling sex with negative partners
- PrEP may have an indirect impact, increasing medication uptake by infected partner (adherence support) and indirectly lower community viral load

# Accountability



Baby Boom

PrEP may provide added options for discordant couples trying to conceive by reducing transmission risk at a time when couples are not using condoms



### Power to the People



- How do we successfully use PrEP as a tool to "devillianize" people living with HIV, restore/invigorate SRHR and promote health and safe sex lives for PLWHIV?
- PrEP may take some owness off PLWHIV to be solely responsible for the sexual and reproductive health state of both parties and assert increased personal responsibility for negative partners who are in discordant relationships

### Setting the Law Straight



- In the wake of criminalization, how do we market PrEP to infected partners to encourage the initial disclosure and advocacy for protection of their negative partners?
- If efficacious PrEP can be a tool lobby to reverse and/or augment laws criminalizing HIV transmission once PrEP illuminates a viable, accessible and effective means of HIV Prevention for negative persons

### Who's Fault Is It?



Even if PrEP is shown to have high efficacy (when used as prescribed), there still may be occurrences of new infections for negative sexual partners who elect to use PrEP as their primary or sole means of HIV prevention... What are the potential implications for the HIV positive partner around criminalization? Who shall bare the ultimate responsibility?

### To Test Or Not To Test That Is The Question...

#### HIV Testing.... When and How?

- Increased funding for HIV testing with be required to determine eligibility for PrEP initiation
- Ongoing testing must accompany new prescriptions for PrEP to monitor seroconversion
- Increased testing expands PLWHIV who know their diagnosis & expands the need for readily available treatment & care

"Only people who know that they are HIV negative can use PrEP Safely" Global Campaign For Microbicides

 For persons taking PrEP who are HIV positive (tested too early for detection or not tested routinely while using PrEP), may develop a drug resistant HIV virus

 HIV drug resistance may be transmitted to a sexual partner(s)

Resistance may lessen treatment options

# Hey... Those Are My ARV's

### Who Gets ARV's 1st and Why

- Only a small minority of people who are HIVpositive know their status. Even among people who know they are HIV-positive we have not yet achieved universal access to treatment
- WHO reports that Only 42% of people in low- and middle-income countries who needed ARVs for HIV treatment had access to them by the end of 2008
- Will PrEP widen the treatment gap fuelling a shift in funding from ARV's from HIV treatment to prevention?



Some women and vulnerable persons LWHIV worry that the ARV's would likely be taken away from them and given to another family member who is viewed as "needing them more" for PrEP Campaign For Global Microbicides, PATH, GNP+ NPT Workgroup



## PrEP Works ... So now what?

PrEP trials are conducted under highly structured and regimented and "ideal" conditions...

In real life settings will people

- Have consistent access to drugs?
- Feel confident to full prescriptions "known to solely taken by persons living with HIV?
- Be 100% adherent? (low rates of antibiotic completion which often run 10 days or less)
- Will PLWHIV be held responsible if negative partners taking PrEP inconsistently sero-convert

### My Doctor Just Doesn't Get It

 Broad provider education will need to take place on the bio-medical and social dynamics of PrEP

 Many doctors will be learning for the first time that their negative patients are engaged in sexual relationships with PLWHIV
Provider understanding of PrEP.



 Provider understanding of PrEP will be essential to acceptability and adherence

#### I Know My Status... But It's A Secret

- Many people who are aware of their HIV status are not emotionally ready to engage in care or treatment
- A negative partner taking PrEP may cause multiple layers of indirect status disclosure for an infected partner (As an HIV negative person taking ARV's for PREVENTION, there may be a persistent need for clarification of their HIV status and rationale for taking HIV specific drugs)

In 2009 Jeff Crowley of the U.S. Office on AIDS Policy expressed concerns about PrEP creating a "Black Market" for HIV drugs?

 Will ARV's become the next quick "money maker" (particularly in low resource settings) and cause people living with HIV to sacrifice the health benefits of ARV's by selling ARV's in order to obtain basic essentials of daily life?

### PrEP would not replace any proven options (regardless of whether PrEP reduces HIV infection) additional options and combination approaches will still be needed AVAC



PLWHIV may experience from condom substitution and may no longer be able to negotiate condom use for STI prevention or family planning (particular implication for women or vulnerable partners)

