



Contact: Megan Canon
(720) 270-7134
megan.canon@gmail.com

For Immediate Release

PleasePrEPMe.org makes it easier to find nearest California PrEP provider

SAN FRANCISCO, November 23, 2015—Finding the nearest health provider willing to prescribe you pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) just got easier in California. With individuals looking to renew or change their insurance plans during open enrollment season, PleasePrEPMe.org, a searchable location-based PrEP provider directory website, launched to remove PrEP access barriers and take the guess work out of figuring whether a provider is knowledgeable about PrEP or not.

“While there is increasing ‘demand’ for PrEP with more and more people asking about it in the community, we need to do a better job to address the ‘supply’ side of the equation and make it easier to deliver PrEP services to the individuals who want and need them,” said HIVE Director Shannon Weber. “It’s extremely rewarding to be able to empower people in this capacity and increase their access to PrEP as an HIV prevention option, especially with the continued rollout of the Affordable Care Act and more people enrolling in health plans.”

Even though there is an ever-growing body of research proving PrEP effectively reduces the risk of HIV infection for HIV-negative individuals by more than 90 percent when taken daily, uptake of PrEP is not widespread. Recent modeling shows only one-third of eligible HIV-negative individuals living in San Francisco is taking PrEP and increased access to PrEP could curb the local HIV epidemic.

PleasePrEPMe.org connects users interested in taking PrEP to willing providers with its unique searchable location-based capabilities. After entering a user’s location, the website scans the directory of more than 180 PrEP providers to list and map the nearest PrEP providers within a 30 mile radius. The website also offers resources for patients to learn more about PrEP and how to pay for it, as well as provider to increase their capacity to include PrEP in their practice.

California PrEP providers are encouraged to add their location to the directory if they haven’t already done so. By early 2016, the goal is to register at least one PrEP provider from the state’s 58 counties. To date, the directory includes nearly half.

PleasePrEPMe.Org was produced by HIVE with support from Gilead and is a collaboration between partners in the San Francisco Bay Area, Los Angeles and San Diego counties to unify the various regional lists of PrEP providers in the state.

For more information, visit www.PleasePrEPMe.org. Join the conversation with #PleasePrEPMe.

About HIVE

After over 20 years as leaders in prenatal, pre-conception and women’s HIV care, BAPAC (Bay Area Perinatal AIDS Center) has evolved HIVE. With our compassionate, evidence-based, woman-centered model of care, there have been no cases of perinatal HIV transmission in San Francisco in over a decade. Building on this success, we are expanding our scope to comprehensive reproductive and sexual health among those affected by HIV. For more information, visit www.hiveonline.org.

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