Implementation Tools and Resources for Enhancing Equity-Focused PrEP Services Series
Session 1
Thursday, May 12, 2022
The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) was founded in 1971 to promote efficient, high quality, comprehensive health care that is accessible, culturally and linguistically competent, community directed, and patient centered for all.
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Meet your presenters

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Implementation Tools and Resources for Enhancing Equity-Focused PrEP Services

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NACHC Learning Collaborative
Session #1: May 12, 2022

R01MH123262 (Golub/Meyers MPI)
A moment for the horrors of zoom training

- Multi-tasking
- Self-monitoring
- Talking into the abyss

Live in the actual moment.
Only this actual moment is life.

– Thích Nhất Hạnh
Goals for this Four-session Learning Collaborative

1. Introduce you to **BLUPrInt**.

BLUPrInt is an NIH-funded project designed to develop tools, resources, guidelines & checklists to support clinics and CBOs who want to develop, enhance or expand their PrEP programs.

Our goal is to **expand HIV prevention coverage** and **increase health equity**.
Goals for this Four-session Learning Collaborative

1. Introduce you to BLUPrint.

2. Provide a “deep-dive” into strategies related to PrEP Awareness & Engagement, and help you identify at least one relevant SMART goal in this area.

3. Discuss progress and pitfalls related to these SMART goals, and share/workshop relevant strategies.

4. Offer models and tools for future program monitoring and improvement.
Let’s do some digital introductions...

Please go to
www.menti.com
and enter code
6374 6126

Any information you enter into mentimeter will be anonymous, however, we may use it to evaluate our workshop!
Let’s do some digital introductions...
Five Considerations for PrEP Equity

1. When we “target” people, they feel targeted.
Five Considerations for PrEP Equity

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Community members are **targets**

Strategies that **target** specific populations in order to **overcome** hesitancy, mistrust, or ambivalence

**vs.**

Strategies that identify what might **motivate, support, and inspire** individuals toward action

Community members are **agents**
Five Considerations for PrEP Equity

1. When we “target” people, they feel targeted.

2. We need to acknowledge that access shapes attitudes.
Five Considerations for PrEP Equity

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3. We need to demonstrate that we care about the whole person we are trying to reach.
Five Considerations for PrEP Equity

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2. We need to acknowledge that access shapes attitudes.
3. We need to demonstrate that we care about the whole person we are trying to reach.
4. We need to design user-focused systems with equity as the primary objective, not the secondary problem to be solved.

How do we reduce disparities in the system?
Five Considerations for PrEP Equity

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What system will ensure equity?
Five Considerations for PrEP Equity

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3. We need to demonstrate that we care about the whole person we are trying to reach.
4. We need to design user-focused systems with equity as the primary objective, not the secondary problem to be solved.
5. We need to identify measurable goals, and then hold ourselves accountable for reaching them.
Overview of BLUPrInt Website (www.hivbluprint.org)

**Key Topics**

Comprehensive and easily digestible reviews of the scientific literature most relevant to engaging and supporting patients.

**Program Builder**

A toolbox of programmatic guidelines, standard operating procedures (SOPs), checklists, trainings, metrics, and other tools to build or enhance a PrEP program.

**Planning Roadmap**

Activities to help plan the introduction of PrEP into clinical services and track progress using an adapted version of the Stages of Implementation Completion® (SIC) tool.
BLUPrInt Key Topics

- Reaching Highest Priority Patients
- Empowering Choice and Decision-making
- Supporting Adherence and Persistence
- Enhancing Patient-Provider Interactions
- Minimizing Structural Barriers and Stigma
- Monitoring & Evaluating Programs
BLUPrint Key Topics

WHAT WE KNOW
from the literature

WHAT IT MEANS
for programs and policies

BLUPrint TOOLS
for this topic area
Key Topic: Minimizing Structural Barriers and Stigma

WHAT WE KNOW

1. Overcoming logistical and financial barriers to PrEP is critical for expanding equitable access.
2. Structural barriers can impede PrEP access and exacerbate clients’ alienation from the healthcare system.
3. Clinic-level protocols and policies can either exacerbate stigma or mitigate against it.
4. Implementation strategies that include navigation and financial management/support can reduce burdens on patients.

from the literature
- 3. Clinic-level protocols and policies can either exacerbate stigma or mitigate against it.

- This paper reviews the ways in which HIV stigma manifests in health care settings and provides specific recommendation for reducing stigma at the environmental and policy levels.

- This paper explains how practice norms -- such as discussing or offering PrEP only in response to direct patient requests -- favor more privileged groups. Protocols and policies that allow for a high-level of provider discretion in PrEP prescription may limit access and exacerbate inequity.

- This paper examines the ways in which complicated protocols for PrEP provision (e.g., requiring multiple follow-up visits prior to full PrEP prescription) can send the message to priority populations that their sexual health does not matter. Improving the ease of these systems makes patients feel that their sexual health actually matters to their providers.
Key Topic: Minimizing Structural Barriers and Stigma

WHAT IT MEANS

- Stigma is perpetuated at the structural level within clinics.

- Cultural competency trainings may impact individual biases of providers, but don’t necessarily address structural factors in clinical settings that can perpetuate stigma and disparities in access.

- Clinics that prioritize low threshold, easy-access systems of PrEP delivery and that invest in financial and logistical patient navigation and support are able to reduce disparities in PrEP access.

- The introduction of more than one PrEP modality offers an opportunity to reimagine PrEP provision.
Key Topic: Minimizing Structural Barriers and Stigma

BLUPrint TOOLS

Resources and tools in these sections of the PrEP Program Builder are informed by and reflect the lessons in this key topic...

- Program Planning Checklist
- Sample Visit Flows
- PrEP Awareness & Engagement Tools
- PrEP Financial Navigation Tools
BLUPrInt PrEP Program Builder

The BLUPrInt PrEP Program Builder is a comprehensive resource to help you build a PrEP program at your clinic. Whether you are creating a program from scratch, enhancing an existing program, or preparing to offer a new PrEP modality, the BLUPrInt PrEP Program Builder offers tools and resources to guide you in developing client-centered PrEP services, with a focus on health equity.

Download the complete BLPrint Program Builder Toolkit
Any successful PrEP program begins with a strategy for educating patients about the availability of PrEP and their ability to access it. Health equity and access are increased when patients are proactively informed about and engaged in PrEP education.
When deciding to start PrEP, patients need to understand how it works and what they need to do to use PrEP safely and effectively. Framing PrEP uptake as an empowering, responsible choice that helps patients take control of their sexual health increases interest in and commitment to PrEP as an HIV prevention option.

PrEP programs must support patients in navigating the financial costs associated with a PrEP prescription, visits, and labs. Offering financial navigation can facilitate PrEP use and build trust by demonstrating that the clinic and providers understand patients’ needs and concerns.
Patients who want to start PrEP (and can afford it) are screened for medical eligibility, informed about PrEP efficacy, adherence, and managing side effects, and given a prescription. The initiation visit is a perfect opportunity reinforce PrEP as a component of overall sexual wellness.
5. PrEP Adherence & Sustainment Support

In order to effectively take PrEP and sustain PrEP use over time, patients need clear information, motivation, and strategies. Providing in-depth PrEP adherence support and counseling is associated with greater patient engagement, self-efficacy, and retention in care.
Patients on PrEP should receive regular testing and medical monitoring to promote and sustain sexual health. Follow-up visit schedules, format, and content should balance these goals with the logistical and financial burden that coming to the clinic may place on patients.
BLUPrint Program Builder

• Each Individual Component includes:
  • Overview, Rationale, and Key Decision Points
  • Guide for Program Development
  • Modifiable Templates for Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
  • Customizable Staff Checklists & Patient Education Sheets
  • Staff Training Manuals
BLUPrint Program Builder

Individual Tools for PrEP Decision-Making Counseling

Guide for Program Component

Standard Operating Procedures Template

Program Component Checklist

Staff Training Manual
BLUPrint Program Builder

• Tools for Overall Program Implementation include:
  • Visit Flow and Staffing Models
  • Quality Assurance Metrics
  • Sample Patient Tracker in Excel
  • EMR Tools
  • Provider Guide Comparing PrEP options
  • Planning Roadmap
BLUPrint Program Builder

Planning Roadmap
Checklist of common recommended activities to introduce or enhance PrEP delivery.

Visit Flow and Staffing Models
Two example models for visit flow and staffing of your PrEP program.

PrEP Patient Tracker and Manual
Excel data entry form and database for tracking PrEP patients.
Agenda for Next Week’s Session

**TOPIC: Enhancing PrEP Awareness & Engagement in Your Clinical Setting**

1. In-depth review of specific BLUPrInt tools for PrEP Awareness and Engagement, including:
   - Overall program guide
   - Templates for standard operating procedures
   - Checklists
   - Staff training
   - Patient education materials.

2. Discussion of the ways these can be adapted to address specific challenges at your site.

3. Articulation of at least one short-term SMART goal that you will attempt to achieve between session 2 and session 3.
These results will not be displayed (please be honest!)
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THANK YOU!

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Implementation Tools and Resources for Enhancing Equity-Focused PrEP Services

SESSION 1 5/12/22  1 - 2 p.m. ET
Introducing BluPrInt as PrEP Program Resource

SESSION 2 5/19/22  1 - 2 p.m. ET
Engagement in Your Clinical Setting

SESSION 3 6/9/22  1 - 2 p.m. ET
Progress and Pitfalls in PrEP Programming

SESSION 4 6/16/22  1 - 2 p.m. ET
Using Data to Enhance and Inform PrEP Practice

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THANK YOU TO ALL COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

#ThankYouCHCs

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