



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Sir Simon Stevens
Chief Executive
NHS England and NHS Improvement
Quarry House
Quarry Hill
Leeds
LS2 7UE

29 April 2021

Dear Sir Simon,

We are writing to you about the issue of wider access to the HIV prevention drug – PrEP.

PrEP is nearly 100 per cent effective when taken correctly and has played a key role in the recent declining numbers of new HIV transmissions nationally.

The routine commissioning of PrEP is something that the NHS can rightly be proud of. Equally, recent news about the increased funding envelope for PrEP in its second year of routine commissioning, at over £23m, is another positive step forward in ensuring this life changing drug reaches more who could benefit.

However, it is clear that if we are to meet our ambitions of ending all new cases of HIV by 2030, much wider awareness of, and access to, PrEP needs to be ensured. A key plank of this must be access to PrEP in health care settings other than just sexual health clinics, as we know particular groups engage with these services less often.

Currently those accessing PrEP are disproportionately male and white. This does not reflect all the communities at higher risk of HIV.

It is our understanding that NHS England has begun initial discussions about access to PrEP in community settings, specifically via community pharmacy. This news is extremely positive to hear.

We would welcome an update on this work and any possible piloting or business case development that is being explored. As representatives of a London constituency, independent community pharmacy and the HIV sector more broadly, we are supportive of exploring and piloting wider access points to PrEP and are keen to work collaboratively with your teams to take this forward as quickly as possible. National coverage is key to achieving an end to new cases of HIV by 2030.

We look forward to hearing from you very soon.



Yours sincerely,

Elliot Colburn MP
Vice Chair of the APPG on HIV & AIDS
Member of Parliament for Carshalton & Wallington

Deborah Gold, Chief Executive
National AIDS Trust

Ian Green, Chief Executive
Terrence Higgins Trust

Mark Lyonette, Chief Executive
National Pharmacy Association

CC: Rt Hon. Matt Hancock MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
Jeannette Howe and Alette Addison, Department of Health and Social Care