

## Pharmacist-Led HIV Prophylaxis: The P-PrEP Proof of Concept — A New Community Pharmacy Model for HIV Prevention

---

### Authors

ANDI SHIRTCLIFFE<sup>1</sup>, MARK FISHER<sup>2</sup>, PETE HANL<sup>1</sup>, BROOKE MARIA HOLLINGSHEAD<sup>3</sup>, CARL WEBBER<sup>3</sup>, LISA KREMER<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Burnett Foundation Aotearoa, Auckland, New Zealand <sup>2</sup>Body Positive New Zealand, Auckland, New Zealand <sup>3</sup>University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand <sup>4</sup>University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand

---

### Background/Purpose

Reaching the 2030 goal of eliminating local HIV transmission requires closing persistent gaps in PrEP access. Cost, stigma, and denial of access continue to exclude PrEP-suitable people from the prevention cascade. PEP faces an even more acute problem: primary care is not available or prescribing PEP, leaving emergency departments as the default. After advocacy and a submission for reclassification, in December 2025 a New Zealand Gazette Notice (2025-go7397) permitted pharmacists to supply HIV prophylaxis without a prescription, creating a new community-based access pathway.

---

### Approach

The P-PrEP Proof of Concept (PoC) is a five-site, pharmacist-led HIV Prophylaxis programme (July - Dec 2026). Modelled on pharmacist supply of the emergency contraceptive pill, a single unified checklist protocol covers both PrEP and PEP indications, focused on clinical contraindications rather than behavioural risk. An in-pharmacy HIV point-of-care test is the only requirement for immediate supply; baseline labs are ordered concurrently and reviewed by linked Sexual Health services before Day 28 continuation. All sites hold TDF/FTC in stock, enabling single-visit walk-in access. For NZ residents, medicine and required labs are fully publicly funded.

---

### Outcomes/Impact

P-PrEP will measure PrEP initiation rates, PEP supply, Day 28 return, 12-month continuation, equity reach, and client satisfaction. The presentation will speak to the early rollout and implementation progress, including initial learnings, emerging challenges, and how these insights are shaping ongoing service refinement.

---

## **Innovation and Significance**

P-PrEP is New Zealand's first pharmacist-initiated PrEP and PEP programme and the first internationally to apply a unified protocol to both indications. P-PrEP removes the structural and social barriers through a routine same-day pharmacy service accessible without a GP referral, an appointment, or behavioural disclosure. For PEP specifically, a stocked community pharmacy replaces the emergency department as the default access point. The model demonstrates that safe, effective HIV prophylaxis can be delivered at scale through an existing trusted community infrastructure.

---

## **Disclosure of Interest Statement**

The P-PrEP Proof of Concept Programme is funded through organisational core funding and grant funding. No pharmaceutical company grants were received in the development of this programme. TDF/FTC (the medicine used in this programme) is PHARMAC-funded in New Zealand and is not under patent protection. The authors declare no conflicts of interest.