

PrEP Rx: The Pharmacist Prescription for HIV Prevention

Purpose: Pharmacists have long been involved in responses to public health crises in the United States. Their evolving role in addressing health disparities and managing chronic disease states make them essential contributors to population health. This meta-analysis seeks to identify and examine population health-based interventions undertaken by pharmacists to address the HIV/AIDS pandemic, specifically through pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) initiation and maintenance. The results of this analysis will be utilized to develop population health interventions applicable to Madison County, Illinois.

Methods: A systematic review of studies examining pharmacist interventions was conducted. Outcomes measured include PrEP adherence and patient perception of pharmacist involvement in integrated health networks. Databases were searched for eligible articles utilizing EBSCOhost and PubMed MeSH. Results from eligible studies were applied to the socio-ecological framework of public health to develop theoretical population health interventions for Madison County, IL.

Results: The literature search yielded 13 eligible studies. Facilitators for PrEP initiation and adherence include expanded prescribing authority for pharmacists, community-specific messaging campaigns, and perceptions of pharmacies as favorable locations for PrEP access. Barriers included a lack of pharmacist training, unclear reimbursement policies, and potential for privacy violations in smaller communities. Minimal data exists for implementation of PrEP by pharmacies, but most studies indicated that pharmacy-led interventions would be well received.

Conclusion: Patients hold largely favorable views on pharmacist-led interventions. While little comprehensive data exists, preliminary findings suggest that pharmacist involvement increases uptake and adherence to PrEP medications. Future studies should be conducted into the application of specific population health interventions to assess their effectiveness.

Keywords: HIV, pharmacist, public health, population health, socio-ecological model