UCLA

The Ethics of PrEP

Vulnerable Populations, Limited Resources, and the Public Good

Tiffany Cvrkel, PhD
Bioethicst, Adj. Assistant Professor
Molecular, Cell, & Developmental Biology
April 14, 2015

About PrEP

- PrEP is oral pre-exposure prophylaxis use of ARVs to prevent the acquisition of HIV.
- PrEP is highly effective. Studies on populations including seriodiscordant couples, heterosexual men, women, MSM, people who inject drugs, and transgender women have taken place all over the world, and this regime has been shown to effectively prevent the transmission of HIV.
- PrEP is safe. It has few side-effects and does not appear to contribute to drug resistance. It is compatible with the use of hormonal birth control and safe to use during pregnancy.
- Efficacy is strongly correlated with adherence.
- As of 2015, the WHO recommends that people at substantial risk of HIV should be offered PrEP.

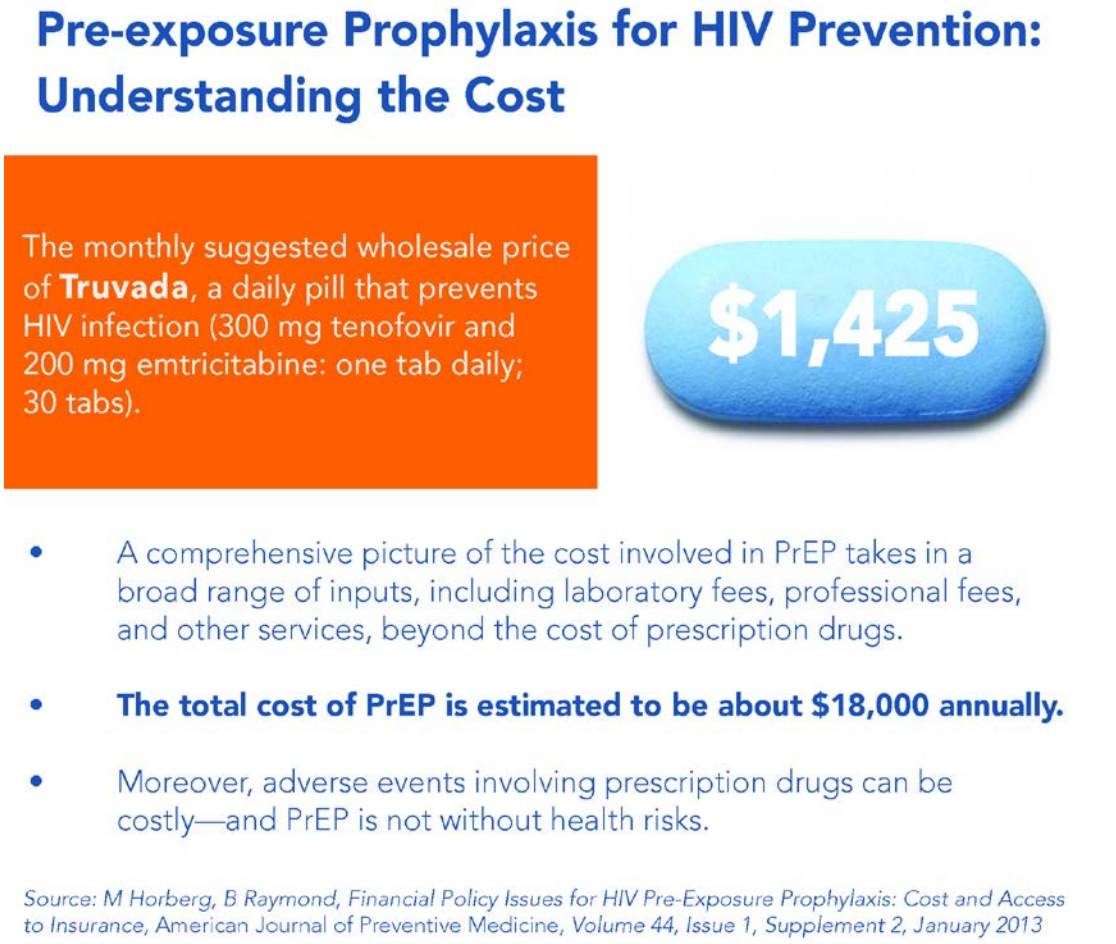
UCLA

The Ethics

PrEP: Ethical Concerns

PrEP: Ethics and Cost

Infographic from Kaiser Permanente, aimed at prescribing clinicians



PrEP: Ethics and Cost

UCLA

Figure 1. Incremental Cost-Effectiveness Ratios for 3 Scenarios in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

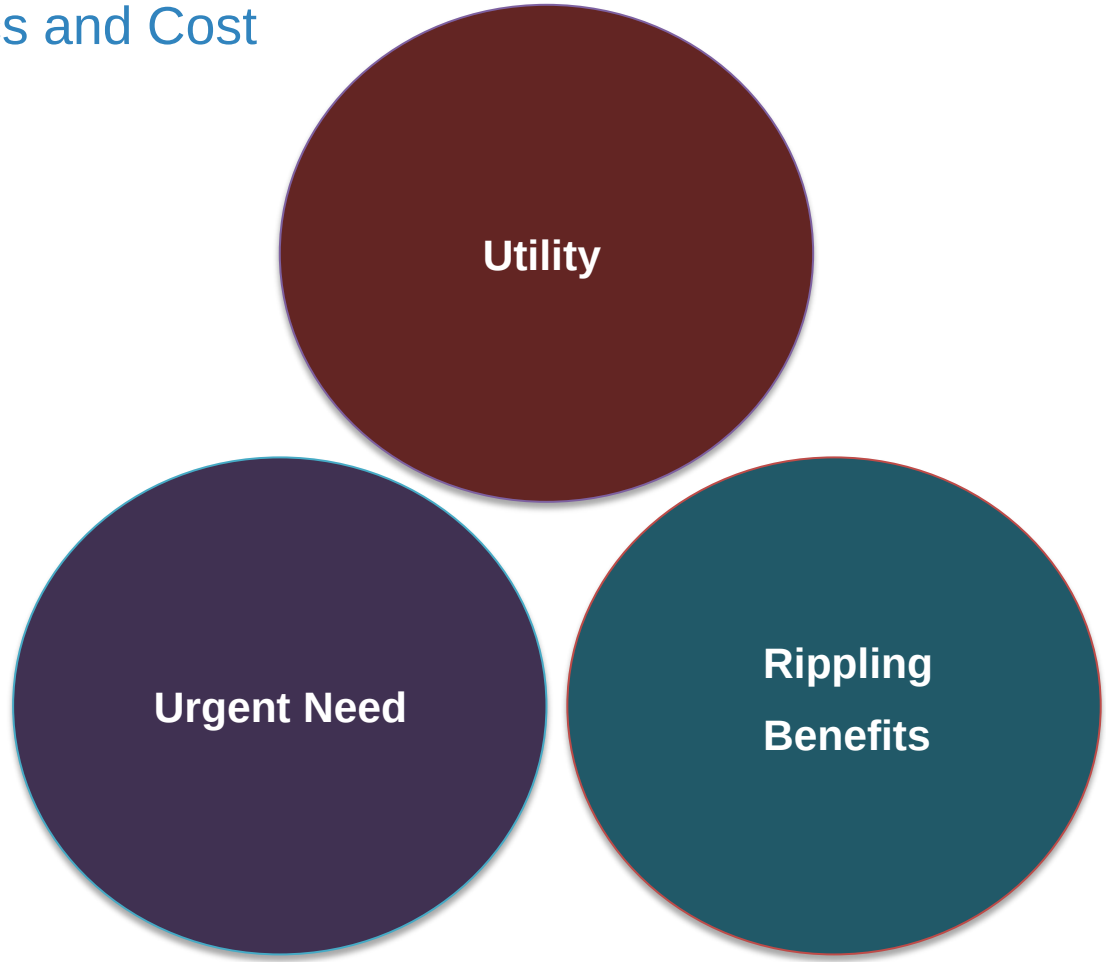
Scenario	Description	Per Infection Averted		Per QALY Gained	
		10-year	20-year	10-year	20-year
Baseline	36% ART coverage	-	-	-	-
+ Home HTC	Additional 12% coverage (Total: 48%)	$5,000	$4,700	$400	$300
+ PrEP	60% coverage for 20-29 year old females	$7,200	$5,800	$6,100	$2,300
+ Partner HTC & ARV	Additional 20% coverage for 25-34 year old males	$4,700	$4,400	$1,000	$800

Source: Ying et al. (Presented April 3, 2014)

UCLA

Situating Cost-Effectiveness and Ethical Obligations

PrEP: Ethics and Cost



UCLA

Rethinking the Aggregate

- Shifting from the general to the particular distribution of resources
- The ethics of working with vulnerable populations
- Justice, fairness, and the minimum position

Ethical Concerns

Thank You