



FOR RELEASE: NOVEMBER 24, 2014
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ANAC Joins with National HIV/AIDS Organizations to Call for Scale-Up of PrEP

Akron, OH - The Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (ANAC) calls for the scale-up of pre-exposure prophylaxis, commonly called PrEP. PrEP is an important part of HIV prevention strategies for men and women at risk of HIV infection.

Today, ANAC joins other members of a national coalition, the AIDS United Public Policy Committee, in [issuing a statement](#) calling for the scale up of education and access to PrEP. November 23, 2014 marked the four-year anniversary of the iPrEx study, the first randomized controlled trial that found PrEP effective in reducing HIV infection risk. Two years ago in 2012, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Truvada as PrEP. Earlier this year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended the use of PrEP for those at substantial risk of HIV infection.

ANAC has worked to raise awareness among nurses and the public about PrEP, and has helped to reduce barriers to PrEP access by supporting and providing clinician education and preparedness. ANAC supports the [PrEP clinical practice guidelines](#) issued by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and encourages clinicians to consult the guidelines as they counsel individuals and support individuals in their decision making process around PrEP. ANAC strongly supports PrEP as a science-driven addition to the HIV prevention toolbox for individual and public health, and believes that individuals should have access to information about PrEP in order to make informed decisions about their own health.

ANAC invites nurses and other healthcare providers to share experiences, barriers and perspectives about what will be required to fully scale up PrEP using the social media hashtag **#PrEPWorks**.

"The appropriate use of PrEP will require ongoing support and adherence education" says Sue Willard, PhD, CRNP, FAAN, President, ANAC Board of Directors. "Nurses play a central role in directly educating, supporting and advocating for our patients, including HIV negative patients at high risk for HIV who deserve to be fully informed about and able to access PrEP in a safe and non-judgmental health care environment."

The CDC clinical practice guidelines provide critical information to help healthcare providers and patients evaluate the suitability of oral PrEP as an HIV prevention option and ensure that those who choose PrEP have the support necessary for PrEP to be effective. Support should include ongoing monitoring, counseling, adherence and condom use support, as well as frequent HIV and STD testing. **ANAC draws attention to the critical role that nurses play in educating, monitoring and supporting patients about the benefits and risks of PrEP.** Furthermore, ANAC supports the right of informed adults to choose the most appropriate mix of HIV prevention options for their lives as part of a comprehensive approach under the care of a clinical provider.

"The current scientific evidence clearly indicates that PrEP, when taken daily as directed, can reduce the risk of HIV infection by more than 90 percent." states Kimberly Carbaugh, Executive Director, Association of Nurses in AIDS Care. "Public health policy grounded in patient advocacy, human rights, compassion, and social justice is a core ideology of ANAC. Knowledge grounded in evidence guides ANAC in all its work."

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About ANAC - The Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (ANAC) is the leading non-profit association for nurses and nurse practitioners working in HIV and HIV-related prevention, care, treatment, education, research and policy. Founded in 1987, ANAC's mission is to provide nurses, nurse practitioners and other health care team members with educational and professional development resources and support to facilitate optimal patient outcomes for individuals living with and at risk of HIV and AIDS, as well as concurrent conditions and other infectious diseases. ANAC has nurse members across the globe and includes 40 local chapters in the U.S. ANAC publishes the Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (JANAC), a peer-reviewed publication with a global readership and serves to both keep HIV nurses informed and provide a venue for the publication of nurse-led scientific research. Learn more at www.nursesinaidscare.org

About the AIDS United Public Policy Committee - The AIDS United Public Policy Committee (PPC) is the oldest continuing federal policy coalition working to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States since 1984. It is the largest body of community-based HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, research, education and service organizations and coalitions in the United States. The PPC is coordinated by AIDS United, whose mission is to end the AIDS epidemic in the United States, through strategic grant-making, capacity building, formative research and policy. Its national membership covers jurisdictions that include more than two-thirds of people living with HIV/AIDS and advocates for the millions of people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS in the United States and the organizations that serve them. ANAC has been a member of AIDS United Public Policy Committee since XXXX. Learn more at policy.aidsunited.org