



# DIY GUIDE



to planning a  
PrEP17 event



[www.prepster.info/prep17](http://www.prepster.info/prep17)

[hello@prepster.info](mailto:hello@prepster.info)

# We're delighted that you're considering running a PrEP17 film event!



The tips that follow are intended to assist in your planning of your event - the tips aren't intended to be proscriptive but are based on the learning of the many events we've done to date.



# Just do it!

Much of the recent PrEP advocacy has been led by 'DIY kitchen table activists' and we can't stress enough how people taking actions into their own hands can bring about change. So, don't feel you need a big audience, or a cinema, or to be a big HIV organization to put on a PrEP17 event - feel free to take it to your community centre, a local bar or cafe, a support group, someone's front room, or a book shop.

**Just do it!**

# And do it yourself (DIY)!

You don't need the permission of PrEPster to put on a PrEP17 event - but we'd love to hear from you if you're planning on one! We'll be delighted to include details of your event in the listings on our website. We can also provide adaptable copies of PrEP17 publicity artwork.

# We're all experts!

We've always stressed that P17 events aren't 'expert' events where a panel talk at an audience. We like to keep them as interactive as possible. We've learned to keep the events focused, free flowing and fairly fast-moving. Showing the film, and then having a discussion, has allowed people to build on some of the key issues raised in the film - and to ask questions, and discuss the film, or PrEP more widely. Audience members often like to add their own experiences and thoughts (we like that!); sometimes people want to know why certain things were or weren't included in the film.

# A suggested format



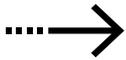
A usual format for the event we've often followed and that has worked well has been:



## **Facilitator introduces the event and warmly welcomes the participants**

We try to keep this brief but to also to establish the 'feel' of the event. At this stage we often:

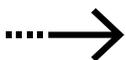
- Acknowledge (and thank!) people in the audience who have been early adopters of PrEP, and who have taken part in clinical trials so that others can now take PrEP safely
- Establish at the start that this isn't an event when 'experts' take a series of questions that they answer – we establish that everyone there has an experience or a view and that we are all experts of value
- Acknowledge that not everyone wants to speak publicly – and so we ask that no-one leave the event with a question unanswered. We offer ways that this can happen – sometimes panel members will stay around after and answer 1-2-1 questions. Often we partner with a local NGO and we ask for their staff or volunteers to identify themselves – "Please go speak to one of the folks with their hands up at the end if you have a question or want to ask more"
- Establish that there are strong and sometimes opposing views on PrEP. This is OK – but we ask participants to be respectful in their views and their challenges. We often make a request of: please – no slut shaming or PrEP shaming



### **The film then runs for 36 minutes**

The film is available to download for FREE from [www.prepster.info/prep17](http://www.prepster.info/prep17). We strongly advise that you download the film beforehand – please don't live stream or you're more likely to run into problems. The version on Vimeo has closed caption sub-titles in a number of languages – but the format means that those same captions don't get downloaded via the Vimeo version. If you want a closed caption version (currently in English, German, Spanish, French) please email us to request a link : [hello@prepster.info](mailto:hello@prepster.info).

We always strongly advise trying out the download in advance: check the sound and vision and ensure that the screen/s are visible to the audience.



### **Bring on the panel – discussion for around 45 minutes**

As the credits are rolling, we usually bring up the panel members and move straight into the panel session. We've always striven to have a broad and diverse mix of panel members, and included a good mix of skills, knowledge and experience. We've found it useful to have someone who can answer medical, scientific or clinical questions. We've also made it a policy to always have a PrEP user on the panel, and someone living with HIV. Representatives of community organizations that do front-line HIV prevention work have always been useful on the panel.

Generally, we've started the discussion by asking each panel member one question each (and sometimes panel members are fore-warned of their first question) and then opening up the discussion to everyone in the audience. See below for some of the typical questions we have asked. We try to keep the discussion free flowing, and encourage people who haven't spoken to have the space to speak, rather than having the discussion dominated by one or two vocal people. Broadly, we ask specific panel members to respond to specific queries based on their expertise, rather than asking each panel member to respond to every question or query. A typical discussion session lasts for around 45 minutes – by this time we're usually ready to chat 1-2-1, or in small groups, or run for the train, or head off dancing.



### **Rounding off the discussion**

Typically, as a way of rounding off the discussion, we ask each panel member to make a brief closing statement of no more than 30-45 seconds. As panel members collect their thoughts, this is a good time for the facilitator to remind participants that longer versions of the interviews (and some that didn't appear in the film) can be viewed online; to remind participants about sign-ups, petitions, future events etc.; to make some thanks (to the panel, to the venue, to the co-hosts, to the participants, to funders etc.); and to remind everyone in the venue that they are a resource in and of themselves – and that they can educate about PrEP to their friends, family, colleagues, loved ones and loves.



### **Closing round**

We typically ask each panel member to make a brief closing remark. This might be a call-to-action; a clarification; or an insight. This is a great opportunity for the facilitator to say a final thank you and to remind participants of where they can learn more.

# Typical questions and foci for discussion



Again, these are not intended to be proscriptive, but provide a focus for the questions that have worked well at previous events:

❓ Several years ago, using online purchased PrEP was almost unheard of. What is your response now when someone arrives at your clinic/service/outreach session saying they've bought PrEP online? What safeguards should be in place?

❓ You've been using PrEP for XX months/years [to PrEP user]. If someone here tonight is considering using PrEP, what advice would you give?

❓ In the film, people talk about "seasons of risk" and starting, stopping, and sometimes re-starting PrEP. [To PrEP user] – what's been your experience of this? What should someone considering this option know about – is it safe to just stop using PrEP?

❓ Someone in the film talks about event based (or on-demand or intermittent) use of PrEP. What does this involve? Can everyone follow this dosing approach?

❓ PrEP is mostly being used by gay and bisexual men. What other groups of people might consider PrEP (and why?). How might we better engage with these groups of people? And what about groups of men who have sex with men who might not be the first to know about PrEP such as minority ethnic men? Or younger men?

❓ Are there specific issues that we should be considering for different groups of people taking PrEP? What about pregnancy, hormones, drug interactions?

❓ Some of the HIV positive people in the film talk about shared responsibility of HIV prevention. From your experience [to HIV positive panel member], what has it been like to have negative partners using PrEP? Has it changed anything?

❓ As a PrEP user, how has PrEP changed you, your life, your sex? Have you had the same experience as the people in the film?

❓ Are there ways of doing PrEP advocacy, or lessons that have been learnt from PrEP advocacy, that we might translate to other forms of health advocacy (such as access to cancer drugs) or advocacy more broadly?

❓ If someone is in an exclusive, monogamous relationship with someone with HIV who has an undetectable viral load, is PrEP an option they might explore?

❓ Some people in the film talk about drug side effects. What are the main effects of being on PrEP? Are they long lasting?

❓ PrEP advocates have taken, used, recycled and re-used some of the advocacy methods from earlier HIV advocacy – including treatment access advocacy [many people draw parallels with early "buyers' clubs"]. What reflections can we make about this? Are there ways newer generations of advocates can learn from previous generations?

❓ What do you think we should collectively do to get PrEP more widely available? For people who don't want to be 'front line' advocates – what could they do?

❓ [For non-England audience]– the advocates in the film used techniques and methods that relate to a specific health, social and political system. Are there ways that they worked that we could translate to our health, social or political system?

❓ And the always-asked question – what about others sexually transmitted infections?



# How did it go?



We would love to hear how your event went!

If you've taken photos, with permission, please share them with us or tag us in them.

Were there parts of your event that went really well – and that we could add to this guide? Were there parts that others could learn from to help in their event planning? And were there great questions that were asked that we could add to the list above?

# XX

