

DETAILED RESEARCH CONSENT

Title: A Cross-Sectional Survey of PrEP Awareness, Barriers and Facilitators for PrEP Uptake, and the Impact of Dosing Mechanisms on Willingness to Take PrEP among MSM Indicated for PrEP Use in Philadelphia: The impact of Intersectional Discrimination on Risk Disclosure and PrEP Uptake

Protocol Number.: 2006007885

Sponsor: Merck and Co Inc.

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Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is a daily pill taken to prevent HIV. It is very effective when people take their medication every day. Recently, there have been research to create a version of PrEP that is a long-acting injection. We are conducting this study to understand what gay, bisexual, and sexual minority men think about PrEP and what situations make it easier or harder for men to take PrEP. We are also interested about your experiences with discrimination and whether you would prefer PrEP as a long-acting injection compared to taking the pill every day.

What should I know about this research?

- We are asking you to complete a one-time confidential, online survey.
- Taking part in this research is purely voluntary. Whether you take part is up to you.
- You can choose not to take part. There will be no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.
- You can agree to take part and later change your mind. There will be no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.
- If you don't understand, ask questions.
- Ask all the questions you want before you decide.

Dr. Neal Goldstein, a researcher participating in this research has disclosed a potential financial conflict of interest. This financial interest has been reviewed in keeping with Drexel University policies. It has been approved with certain conditions, which are intended to guard against bias in how the study is conducted, how the results are analyzed and how participants are protected. If you have any questions about this financial interest, please contact Marjorie Boone, Office of Research Conflict of Interest Analyst, via mail compliance.awards@drexel.edu or phone 267-359-2419.

Why is this research being done?

In this study, we aim to understand the factors that impact PrEP uptake and willingness to take different versions of PrEP among gay, bisexual, and men who have sex with men living in Philadelphia and the surrounding areas. Merck and Co Inc. has funded this research. About 360 men will participate in this study.

What happens to me if I agree to take part in this research?

If you agree to be in this study, you will complete a confidential online survey. This one-time survey asks about your demographic information, healthcare preferences, sexual behaviors, PrEP uptake, and experiences with discrimination. It will take you about 25 minutes to complete the survey. After completing the survey, you will receive your compensation of a \$25 Amazon electronic gift card through email.

What are my responsibilities if I take part in this research?

If you take part in this research, it is very important that you:

- Complete the survey
- Answer interview questions as honestly as possible

Could being in this research hurt me?

Psychological risks: Some questions ask about private feelings and behaviors like sex or drug use. These questions may be embarrassing or stressful to you. If they are, you may refuse to answer any question. However, your responses to any of the questions are never linked to your name or other identifying information. And results are never reported for you alone—they are reported for the entire sample of participants.

Confidentiality risks: Many of the questions in the study are about private feelings and behaviors that you may not want other people to know about. Even though none of your answers will be linked to your name, your confidentiality might be broken if someone hacked into the secure site where we store study data. However, the chance of this happening is very minimal, and all your responses are kept fully secure in password-protected files.

Will it cost me money to take part in this research?

It is not expected that there will be any additional cost associated with your participation in this research.

Will being in this research benefit me?

There are no benefits to you from your taking part in this research. We cannot promise any benefits to others from your taking part in this research. However, we hope that findings from

this research project will better explain how experiences of discrimination may impact preferences for different ways of using PrEP for gay, bisexual, and other sexual minority men.

What happens to the information collected for this research?

Efforts will be made to limit access to your personal information to people who have a need to review this information. We will protect your information from disclosure to others to the extent required by law. For instance, we will assign you with an identification number at the start of the survey to protect your anonymity. However, we cannot promise complete secrecy. First, our Sponsor (Merck Inc.) and their affiliates have the right to review private information. Second, organizations that may inspect and copy your information include the IRB and other Drexel representatives. Third, we may publish the results of this research. However, we will keep your name and other identifying information confidential. Finally, data collected in this research might be de-identified and used for future research or distributed to another investigator for future research without your consent.

Who can answer my questions about this research?

If you have questions, concerns, or complaints, or think this research has hurt you or made you sick, talk to the research team at the phone number listed above on the first page.

This research is being overseen by an Institutional Review Board (“IRB”). An IRB is a group of people who perform independent review of research studies. You may talk to them at (267) 359-2471 or HRPP@drexel.edu if:

- You have questions, concerns, or complaints that are not being answered by the research team.
- You are not getting answers from the research team.
- You cannot reach the research team.
- You want to talk to someone else about the research.
- You have questions about your rights as a research subject.

Can I be removed from this research without my approval?

Dr. Welles can remove you from the research study without your approval. This could happen if you are unable or unwilling to complete the survey. However, we will tell you about any new information that may affect your health, welfare, or choice to stay in this research.

What happens if I agree to be in this research, but I change my mind later?

If you agree to take part in the research now, you can stop at any time and it will not be held against you. If you change your mind partway through the survey, you will still be compensated for that study visit.

Will I be paid for taking part in this research?

For taking part in this research, you may be paid up to a total of \$25. You may select to receive your compensation as follows:

- Amazon gift card delivered by email

Federal tax law requires to you to report this payment as income to the Internal Revenue Service if you are compensated more than \$599.00 (in total) this year for participating in research. You may be asked to tell us your social security number or other identifying information (e.g., full name). If payments for this study are more than \$599.00, we will report them to the Internal Revenue Service and send you a Form 1099-MISC.

This information will not be associated with the information or data you provide for this research. It will be stored separately from your data, it will not be linked in any way, and your identifying information will be destroyed within 1 year of study completion.

If you do not give us your social security number or other identifying information you may take part in this research if you agree to not be paid.