

UN-GLOBE information on PrEP for UN staff who are HIV-

April 27, 2016

Some of you may be interested in having access to pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) medication, also known as Truvada, to prevent the transmission of HIV.

Truvada is an interesting medication that has been used thus far to treat HIV, but can now be used also to prevent HIV. It is taken daily.

Since this new function for Truvada is relatively new, not that many countries have approved it yet for the prevention of HIV (in other words, as PrEP). [*However, the use of Truvada for the treatment of HIV seems to be generally available around the world.*]

[Prepwatch](#) lists the following countries as having approved Truvada for preventive purposes so far: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Congo, France, India, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Peru, Thailand, Uganda, the UK, the US, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. [*Please keep in mind that this list will grow in the months and years ahead as more and more countries begin approving Truvada as PrEP.*]

If you are a staff member who is interested in having access to Truvada through your UN health insurance program, please know that Truvada is covered, and that this seems to be true for both national and international plans, as long as you have a prescription. However, you should keep in mind the following:

One, the out-of-pocket costs you will pay will depend on which insurance program you are enrolled in, and in which country you serve.

Two, as stated before, in order to get Truvada through your insurance program, you must have a doctor's prescription. If you are serving in a country where Truvada has not yet been approved for PrEP, getting this doctor's prescriptions may not be possible if you are HIV-. [*We are aware, however, that people have managed to get a prescription despite this.*]

In terms of the out-of-pocket costs, we have heard that:

IN THE US

If you are with Empire BCBS plan, the cost to you is \$15 for 90 pills.

If you are with Aetna, the cost is \$20 for 30 pills.

[*For both Empire BCBS, and Aetna, there are programs available that will subsidize your monthly co-pay so that your cost is essentially \$0.*]

OUTSIDE THE US

Most UN health insurance programs outside the US will typically pay 80% of the cost of the medication, while you would be liable for 20%.

However, Truvada in some countries can be very expensive, while in others relatively cheap. The reliability of the medication in some countries may also be questionable. *[We have heard that the cost in Kosovo for 30 pills is \$1,500; \$100 in Tanzania, \$1,000 in Ivory Coast; and \$140 in Cambodia. Please make sure to verify these numbers.]*

If you are serving in a country where Truvada is very expensive and where 20% of the cost could mean several hundred dollars a month, please know that some colleagues have managed to find programs that subsidize all or part of the 20% cost.

If you are serving in a country where you have misgivings about the reliability of the medication, please know that other colleagues have managed to get their prescriptions filled in third countries. *[Please be aware, however, that in some countries, such as Switzerland or the United States, you may be legally liable if you get the generic version of Truvada from a third country.]*

If you are interested in having access to PrEP, please do your research.

You can share your findings with UN-GLOBE at ohrm_globe@un.org

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