

CONTROLLING THE HIV EPIDEMIC WITH  
ANTIRETROVIRALS



Avoiding the Cost  
of Inaction

18-19 September 2014 • Royal Garden Hotel, London

# Ethics & PrEP

Jeremy Sugarman, MD, MPH, MA  
Harvey M. Meyerhoff Professor of Bioethics & Medicine  
Berman Institute of Bioethics  
Johns Hopkins University  
Baltimore, Maryland USA



CONTROLLING THE HIV EPIDEMIC WITH ANTIRETROVIRALS  
Avoiding the Cost of Inaction

# Overview

- Use
  - Choice/liberty
  - Well-being of individuals and communities
- Research
- Allocation



# Choice/liberty

- Enables individuals at risk to take preventive measures
  - Not rely upon the actions of others
  - Can be discrete
- Enables episodic prevention during peaks of exposure



# Well-being: Risk Behaviors

- Potential for increased risk behaviors
  - Unprotected sex
  - Additional partners
  - Riskier practices
- Hazards
  - Overwhelm preventive benefit
  - Other STIs





# Well-being: Resistance

- Use of ARV(s) during early stages of infection
- Resistance
  - Treatment of the individual
  - Transmission to others



# Well-being: Safety

- Side effects
  - E.g., gastrointestinal discomfort
- Adverse effects
  - E.g., renal toxicity
- Resistance
  - Need for periodic testing



# Well-Being: Parameters of Use

- Use of ARVs without demonstrated efficacy and safety for PrEP
- Use of alternate dosing schedules without demonstrated efficacy and safety for PrEP
- Use without appropriate screening and testing
- Use without other HIV prevention services





# Well-being: Stigma

- Conflate with infection
- Promiscuity
  - Moral and cultural beliefs
  - Character
- Insurability and employment



# Well-being: Diversion

- Use of ARVs intended for PrEP (of special concern where ARV access is limited)
  - To treat those infected with HIV
  - For profit
- Incomplete and unmonitored treatment may be harmful
  - To patients
  - Resistance



# Considerations for Research

- Control arm
- Standard of prevention



# SOP: Necessary Conditions

- Effective
- Practically achievable
- Reasonably accessible



CONTROLLING THE HIV EPIDEMIC WITH ANTIRETROVIRALS  
Avoiding the Cost of Inaction

# Allocation

- HIV
  - Other forms of prevention
  - Treatment versus prevention
- Other health needs
- Research





# Concluding Comments

- Evolving data support the use of antiretroviral agents for the prevention of HIV
- Nevertheless, their use is associated with ethical issues associated with their safe and effective use in practice
- Awareness of these ethical issues should help minimize untoward effects

