



Strengthening PrEP Access and Peer Support in Group PrEP Care

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Introduction & Background

Disparities

- HIV rates 12x greater than general population

Barriers

- Multiple partners
- Condomless Sex
- Healthcare access
- Trauma
- Structural Violence

Urgent Need

- Innovative, community-empowered HIV prevention approaches utilizing PrEP

What is PrEPWork?

A Centering-Informed Group Care model adapted for PrEP navigation, education and care retention among individuals who trade sex:



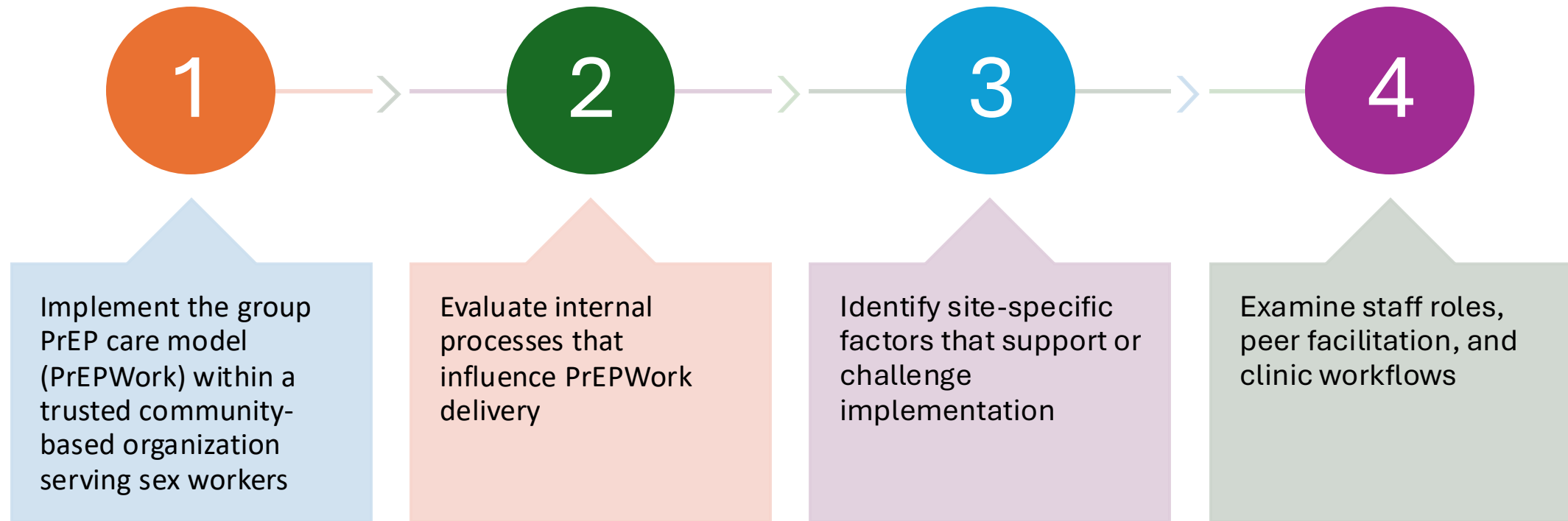
combines individual provider visits with group care sessions

Individual Health
Assessment

Sexual Health and
Safety Education

Community
Building

Implementation & Evaluation Objectives



PrEPWork

HEALTH ASSESSMENT

30 min

- **Brief one-on-one with provider:** Brief because common health promotion occurs in group setting.
- **Self-Assessments:** PrEP adherence, vital signs, Promotes ownership over health.
- **Enjoy snacks**, connect with group members and engage in a semi-structured activity prior to circling up.

INTERACTIVE LEARNING

45 min

- **Group facilitation:** 1 provider & 1 trained peer.
- **Activity** which generates discussion about how to make health promotion work in everyday lives.
- **Topics:** Every session has a topic such as HIV prevention, substance use, side effects of PrEP.



COMMUNITY BUILDING

- **Patients:** Same cohort of patients.
- **Facilitators:** Same group facilitators.
- **Opener & Closer:** Each session has an opener and closer to build community.
- **Community Adapted:** Topics and activities reflect community's stated needs.
- **Reduces power imbalance** often seen in healthcare.
- **Meeting patients where they are** given constraints of the health system.

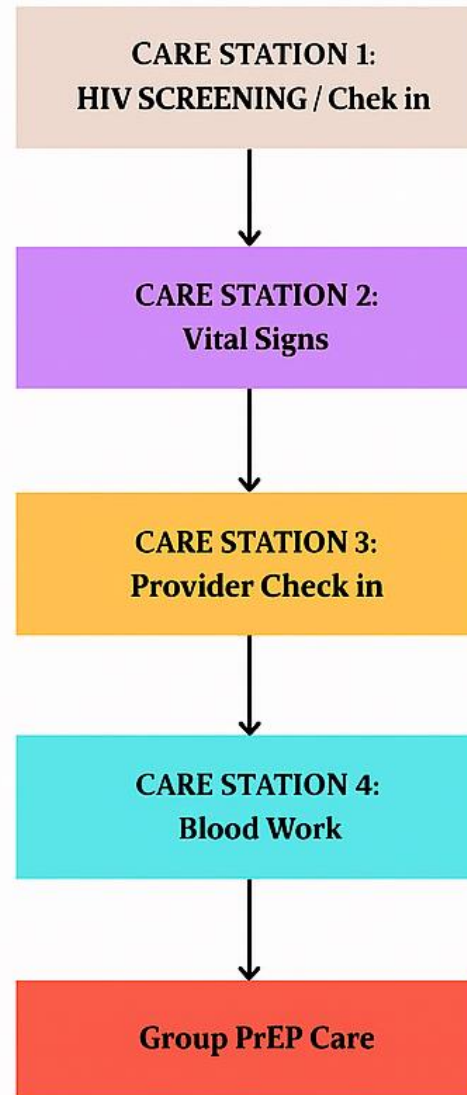
**SAME PATIENTS. SAME FACILITATORS. SAME STRUCTURE FOR EACH SESSION.
PROMOTING HEALTH WHILE BUILDING COMMUNITY**

Session Objectives

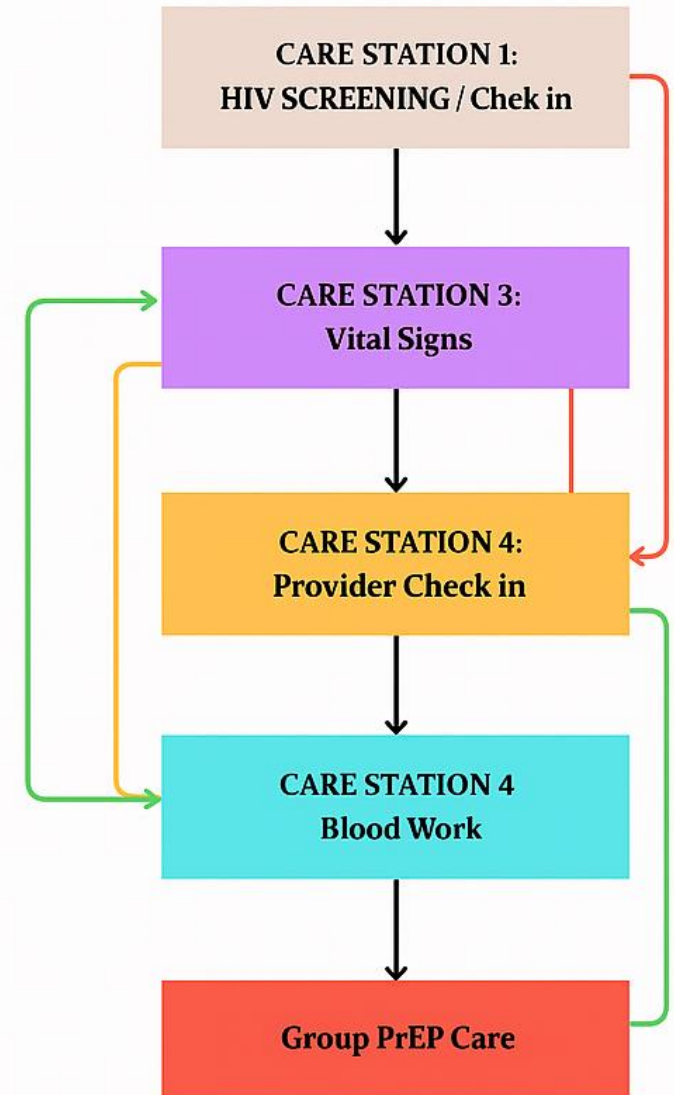
Sessions	Health Assessments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Self - Provider 	Interactive Learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitate discussion - Each session has a plan - Responsive to group needs 	Community Building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Socializing - Group Size - Group continuity 	Goals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group supported - Accountability to self & group - Improved harm reduction behaviors
Session 1: Centering Orientation & Mindfulness	Self-report, <u>PrEP</u> adherence and urine assay HIV rapid test STI self-screen 1:1 with provider	Welcome to C- <u>PrEP</u> + <u>PrEP</u> knowledge Self-management	Introductions Group Guidelines Sharing	Orientation Group Guidelines HIV & <u>PrEP</u> “Word on the Street” Genital Names
Session 2: Care, <u>PrEP</u> , & Coping	Self-report, <u>PrEP</u> adherence and urine assay HIV rapid test STI self-screen 1:1 with provider	Barriers to Care Substance Use <u>PrEP</u> side effects Covid-19*	Group Guidelines Peer support around <u>PrEP</u> side effects management Sharing experiences and solutions	How do I cope? Healthy coping skills <u>PrEP</u> side effects management and adherence
Session 3: Harm Reduction	Self-report, <u>PrEP</u> adherence and urine assay HIV rapid test STI self-screen Complete Metabolic Panel 1:1 with provider	Communication and negotiation Safer Sex	Group guidelines Shared understanding Group recommendations for safety	Art Collage Mental Checklist for Safety

Group Care Workflow

Planned Workflow



Community-adapted Workflow



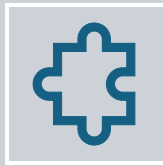
Lessons Learned

Key Takeaways:

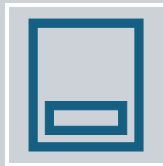
- Group care fosters **joy**, **peer connection**, and **empowerment** in a stigma-free environment.
- Participants engage with individuals who share their lived experiences.



Clear protocols and flexibility



Resources, Time, Structure, Community Needs, Goal Alignment



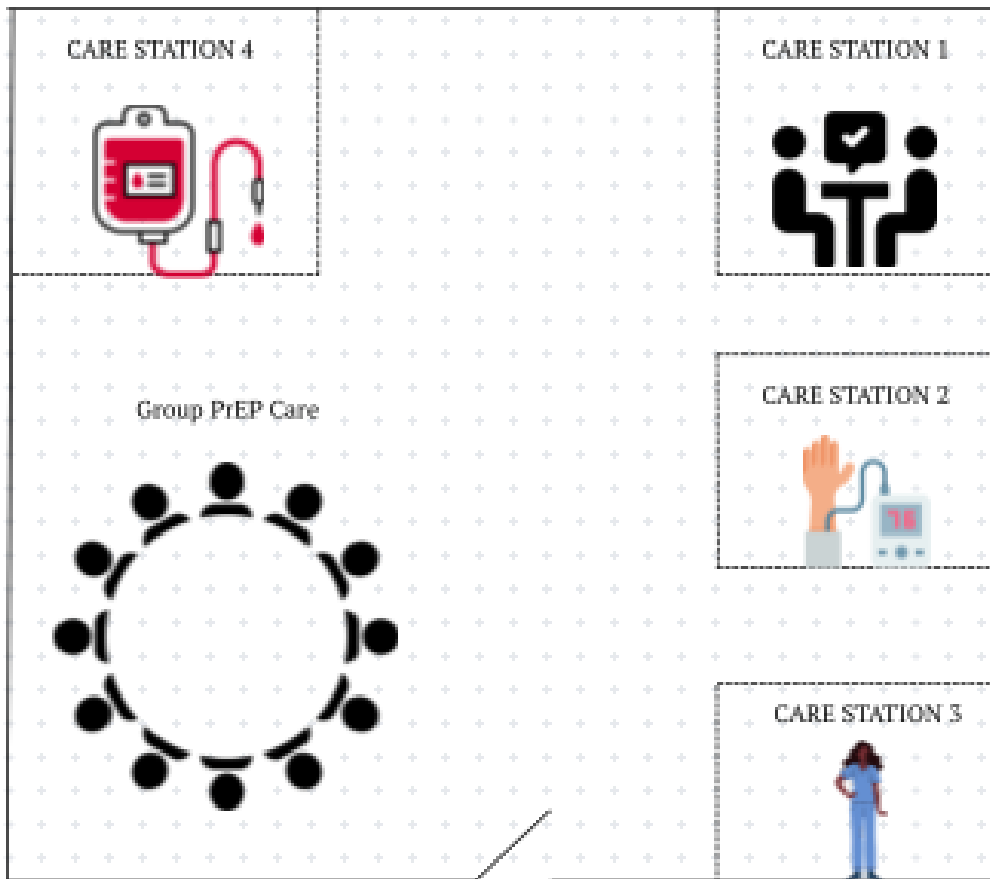
A fixed two-hour session often conflicts with the community's natural pace



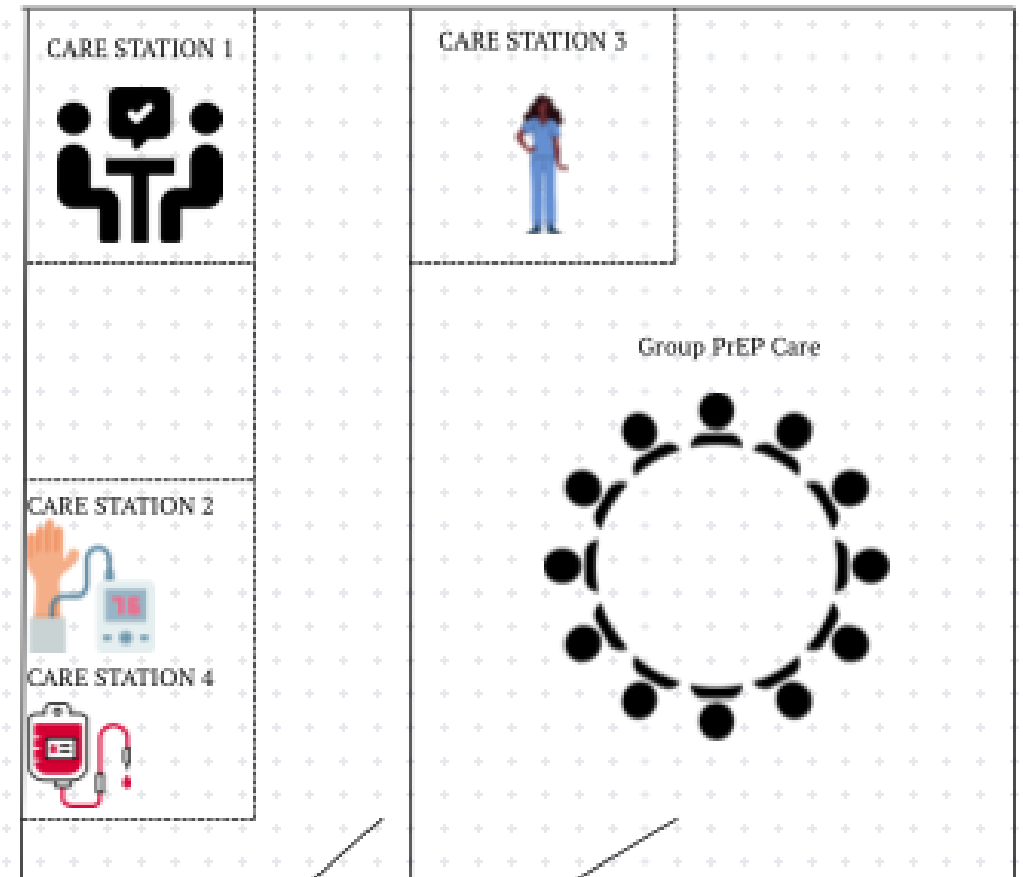
Real-world implementation requires adaptable systems that support both patience and flexibility.

Implementation Adaptations

Planned Room Workflow



Community Adapted Workflow



Recommendations

Optimizing

Optimizing PrEPWork requires clinic-specific adjustments

- Efficient space utilization
- Streamlined workflows
- Addressing time and resource constraints

Strengthening

Strengthening communication and coordination

- Supports successful implementation
- Facilitates sustainability

Leveraging

Leveraging non-monetary assets can transform HIV prevention for sex workers and inform future status-neutral care

- Community trust
- Passion
- Intrinsic motivation
- Authentic Partnership



Questions?

References

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