

**Re: Draft Health Technology Assessment (HTA) of a PrEP programme for populations at substantial risk of sexual acquisition of HIV.**

**Submission from the PSI - the Pharmacy Regulator**

The Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI) is an independent statutory body, established under the Pharmacy Act 2007 (the 'Act'). It is charged with, and is accountable for, the effective regulation of pharmacy services in Ireland, including responsibility for supervising compliance with the Act. The PSI is also charged with ensuring compliance with certain medicines and controlled drugs legislation. It works for the public interest to protect the health and safety of the public by regulating the pharmacy profession and pharmacies.

The PSI welcome this opportunity to make a submission to the draft Health Technology Assessment (HTA) of a PrEP programme for populations at substantial risk of sexual acquisition of HIV.

The PSI has reviewed the draft report, and consider it very clear and easy to understand. The PSI fully support the aim of this assessment to examine the clinical and cost-effectiveness of introducing a PrEP programme in Ireland in line with the National Sexual Health Strategy 2015– 2020. The PSI considers that this report will help in the introduction of a nationwide strategy where PrEP medications are provided as part of a holistic programme, allowing access for all patients and reducing the incidence of ordering PrEP online.

In particular, the PSI welcomes the recognition of the potential role of the hospital and community pharmacist in the supply of medication to ensure the delivery of safe and effective delivery of PrEP. The PSI would recommend that under *Section 7: Access to PrEP Medication*, specific reference be made that the prescription needs to be written in a manner that complies with the legislative

requirements of the Medicinal Products (Prescription and Control of Supply) Regulations 2003, as amended in order to be dispensed in a retail pharmacy business.

The PSI would again like to express our support for the development of this report with the aim of implementing a successful national PrEP programme that would be safe, effective and cost-effective.

**PSI – the Pharmacy Regulator**

**May 2019**