



## Request for advice

In a letter dated October 11, 2016, ref 2015-0000271469, the Minister of Public Health, Welfare and Sport requested the Health Council to advise on Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP). In English, this request reads as follows (translation by the Health Council of the Netherlands):

In the Netherlands, an estimated 22,000 people are infected with HIV. Approximately 1,100 new infections occur annually, and that number has been stable in recent years. After high-risk sexual contact, treatment with Truvada® may be prescribed as post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP). Treatment should start as soon as possible to minimise the risk of infection.

The European Medicines Agency has recently expanded the indication for the authorisation of Truvada® for use as 'Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)'. This makes it possible to also use the drug as a preventive measure against HIV infection. The question relevant for healthcare policy in this context is how the use of PrEP fits in with the total approach to HIV and STI control in the Netherlands.

### Request for advice PrEP

I ask you to advise on the question whether PrEP implementation is a matter of essential care, to be collectively funded. I would ask you at least to address the following aspects:

1. To what extent do you expect PrEP will contribute to HIV prevention in a situation where the further prevention, detection and treatment of HIV is optimised?
2. Can you indicate whether a specific risk group can be defined?
3. Which side effects, for example with regard to the development of resistance and the occurrence of other STIs, do you foresee when PrEP is used?

You can use the assessment framework that you use when advising on vaccinations as a basis and, if necessary, expand it with other criteria that are necessary to complete your advice.

I ask you to provide me with advice as soon as possible and to indicate in response what the planning for this advisory process is, and when I can expect your advice. I will ask the RIVM to review international epidemiological data in a starting document and to extrapolate the data arising from the Amsterdam pilot project for the Dutch situation. You can include these in your advisory process.

As I can imagine that your opinion will be of interest to the participants at the international AIDS conference in Amsterdam in 2018, I would like to ask you in advance to publish your advice in English as well.