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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monday, September 17, 2012

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SFDPH to Launch PrEP Demonstration Project for HIV Prevention

Community Forum Scheduled to Discuss PrEP

San Francisco, CA—The San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) is launching the city's first demonstration project to evaluate the delivery of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in STD clinics. PrEP is the use of a daily anti-HIV medication for HIV prevention. Called **The Demo Project**, the program will enroll up to 300 HIV-uninfected men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender women at the **San Francisco City Clinic**, the only municipal STD clinic in San Francisco, and an additional 200 participants at a Florida Department of Health STD clinic in Miami, Florida. This study is sponsored and funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the **National Institutes of Health (NIH)**.

Several recent clinical trials have demonstrated that the anti-HIV medication Truvada[®] can prevent HIV infections in men and women at risk for acquiring HIV when used as part of a comprehensive prevention package. SFDPH was involved in one of these studies, the NIH-sponsored iPrEx study, which found that a daily PrEP regimen of Truvada[®] reduced the risk of HIV infection in MSM and transgender women by 42 percent. A PrEP study among sero-discordant heterosexual couples in Africa showed a 75% reduction in HIV infections. In July 2012, based on these groundbreaking results, Truvada[®] was approved by the Food and Drug Administration for the prevention of HIV through sexual exposure in at-risk men and women.

"These studies suggest that PrEP has the potential to have a significant public health impact on the HIV epidemic, and the next step is to evaluate how to best implement PrEP in different communities," said Albert Liu, M.D., Director of HIV Prevention Interventions at SFDPH and the protocol chair for this study. "The Demo Project will examine whether gay/bi men and trans women are interested in taking PrEP, how people adhere to a daily PrEP regimen over time, and whether sexual practices change in people taking PrEP." The study will be co-led by protocol co-chairs Stephanie Cohen, M.D., Medical Director of the San Francisco City Clinic, and Michael Kolber, M.D., Professor of Medicine at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine.

The mission of the San Francisco Department of Public Health is to protect and promote the health of all San Franciscans.

We shall ~ Assess and research the health of the community ~ Develop and enforce health policy ~ Prevent disease and injury ~
~ Educate the public and train health care providers ~ Provide quality, comprehensive, culturally-proficient health services ~ Ensure equal access to all

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Demo Project participants will be offered up to 12 months of Truvada[®] without charge and will be provided regular HIV testing; condoms and risk reduction counseling; STD testing and treatment; hepatitis B vaccination; and linkage to other prevention services. Participants will also receive counseling support for pill-taking and blood tests to monitor for safety at each clinic visit.

The San Francisco City Clinic conducts over 20,000 visits a year, including over 8,000 visits with HIV-uninfected gay/bisexual men. "The Demo Project will provide an important opportunity to determine how best to deliver PrEP in a busy STD clinic," said Dr. Cohen.

While Truvada[®] as PrEP has been approved for HIV prevention, this medication should be used under the supervision of a clinical provider. HIV testing before starting and during PrEP is critical to reduce the chances of developing HIV resistance, along with regular safety monitoring.

SDFPH will be joined by the **San Francisco AIDS Foundation** and the **AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition** to host a **community forum** on **September 19** from **6-9 p.m.**, at **25 Van Ness Avenue**, to discuss the FDA approval of PrEP, the Demo Project and other PrEP studies available in the San Francisco Bay Area, and what PrEP means for HIV prevention in San Francisco.

For additional information about the Demo Project, please visit the San Francisco City Clinic website at www.sfcityclinic.org or call 415-487-5537. Information about this project is also available at www.clinicaltrials.gov under the identifier NCT01632995.

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