

Conversations on PrEP – *whether you are taking it or referring to a friend*

The Ministry of health and wellness in Botswana has adopted the use of pre exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) as one of the HIV prevention tools for key populations. These are MSM, sex workers and adolescents and young women. A lot of promotional messages, within the extended referral system that includes civil society, have been curated and distributed to increase uptake. However, many challenges remain in the uptake and adherence of PrEP. Many are too afraid to engage in an in-depth conversation regarding the use of PrEP.



1. **How do you make sure that the mood is right? an individual usually knows how the parent or relevant/target person's mood for a deeper conversation.**
2. **How do you make it about the other person and not you? Gauge their interest/concern/expectation in the matter and ensure you address it**
3. **How do you actively listen? Take note of needs and opportunities for PrEP, seek clarity where needed, repeat what you heard so it is aligned with what was said**
4. **How to personalise the conversation? move the conversation to a deeper level at a very steady pace considering the other person's emotions.**
5. **Final thoughts? Ask good questions and consider the time and space you're in.**



Sometimes despite the best approach is leave the conversation open for the future. It can get too uncomfortable for others. Thus an exit strategy should be readily available. Here are some tips:

1. *Be honest where you will not be able to answer, with a promise to revert.*
2. *Don't let an awkward situation get you down.*
3. *Set up a game plan for an exit strategy before starting.*
4. *There are some apps you can put on your phone that will call your phone for you when you open the app.*

Our Position:

There should be a clear engagement framework that separate behavioural communications and social determinants from HIV testing and counselling, as well as related referral health system activities. These should not be carried out by the same institution to balance out possible perceptions of stigma, community politics and enable trust-based engagement with young LGBTIQ+. Success Capital Organisation has a strong competence in understanding experiences, appealing to young LGBTIQ+ and influencing for health seeking behaviour. We believe in a collaborative and concerted comprehensive HIV response that includes all civil society actors, influencers and health practitioners. You can seek out our services for tailor-made partnerships.