Abstract Title: HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis medication adherence within Walgreens local specialty pharmacies is significantly higher compared to other class of trade pharmacies

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250 word limit.

Background: Walgreens local specialty pharmacies (LSPs) manage complex chronic health conditions, such as HIV/AIDS, in communities across the country. LSPs provide personalized, comprehensive pharmacy care to support HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) medication use and adherence.

Purpose: To compare adherence of HIV PrEP users at Walgreens LSPs to adherence of HIV PrEP users at other retail pharmacy classes of trade (CoT; i.e. food stores, mass merchandisers, independent, or other chain stores).

Methods: IQVIA™ conducted a retrospective cohort study using their longitudinal retail prescription database that includes pharmacy claims across CoT. We included adults ≥18 who filled the combined formulation of emtricitabine and tenofovir disporoxil fumurate for ≥90 days from Jan-Dec, 2017. HIV PrEP users exclusive to Walgreens LSPs were compared to a propensity matched cohort of PrEP users exclusive to other CoT pharmacies. Logistic regression and a generalized linear model was used to compare the adherence, measured as modified proportion of days covered (mPDC), between the two cohorts.

Results: Among the 3,114 HIV PrEP users in both cohorts, the percent with an mPDC≥90% was significantly higher in Walgreens LSP vs. other CoT pharmacies (OR=1.39; P<.0001). Furthermore, HIV PrEP users exclusive to Walgreens LSPs had a mean mPDC (M=95.1%) that was significantly higher than those at other CoT pharmacies (P=.0001; M=93.7%).

Conclusions: Walgreens LSPs demonstrated higher mean adherence levels and more users achieved ≥90% adherence on HIV PrEP medication compared to other CoT pharmacies. Walgreens LSPs have experience supporting HIV PrEP users, which may help improve adherence on HIV PrEP.

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