

## **Evaluating the Ability of PEP and PrEP Furnishing in Northern California Community Pharmacies**

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### **Background/Purpose**

The implementation of SB159 was expected to reduce the prevalence of HIV by giving pharmacists the authority to furnish HIV PEP and PrEP without a prescription, given that certain conditions are met and the patient meets the clinical criteria. With rising rates of HIV diagnoses in Northern California, our team questioned this trend and conducted a study to determine if community pharmacies are doing everything in their power to minimize cases of HIV transmission. The purpose of the study was aimed to investigate the efficacy of SB-159 and evaluate what may be preventing pharmacists from furnishing PEP and PrEP products in Northern California pharmacies.

### **Methods**

Utilizing a mystery shopper study design we contacted chain community pharmacies in Northern California and asked a series of questions to determine the accessibility of HIV PEP and PrEP medications without an active prescription. After each call, responses were recorded in call logs, including any additional details that the employees mentioned regarding what may be preventing them from furnishing these products or any items that patients were expected to bring for the consultation.

### **Results**

Of the 1,067 pharmacies contacted; 23 pharmacies (2.16%) stated that they were able to furnish PEP and PrEP products without a prescription; 1,002 pharmacies (93.91%) stated that a prescription and medical coverage was required; 42 pharmacies (3.94%) stated that further inquiry from their pharmacy team was necessary for a clear response. These results proved that pharmacists are not making use of SB-159 and are not implementing changes in their practice sites to help with HIV prevention to the fullest extent.

### **Conclusion**

Bill SB-159 was implemented to lower the overall cases of HIV diagnosis by authorizing pharmacists to provide means of prophylaxis. Increasing awareness of what SB-159 entails amongst pharmacists and their pharmacy team members may be beneficial in addressing HIV-related management throughout the community.