

# A Novel Collaborative Approach To Recommending Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis For Human Immunodeficiency Viruses In Wales: A Case Study

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## Background

- Emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) presents a new option for the prevention of HIV-1 infections in adults at high risk.
- Following the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) negative recommendation for Truvada® in 2017, Welsh Government funded the three year PrEPARED study which facilitated temporary access to PrEP for those eligible.
- In April 2020, AWMSG recommended emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil for pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV-1 prevention in Wales.
- We decided to explore and illustrate the unique set of circumstances that contributed to this second (and positive) recommendation.
- Research question: What factors contributed to the recommendation of PrEP for prevention of HIV-1 infection in NHS Wales in 2020?

## Method

- We retrospectively approached the investigation. There were no similar examples found in the literature. This was therefore a single unique case (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Case study categorisation



Figure 2: Data collection framework

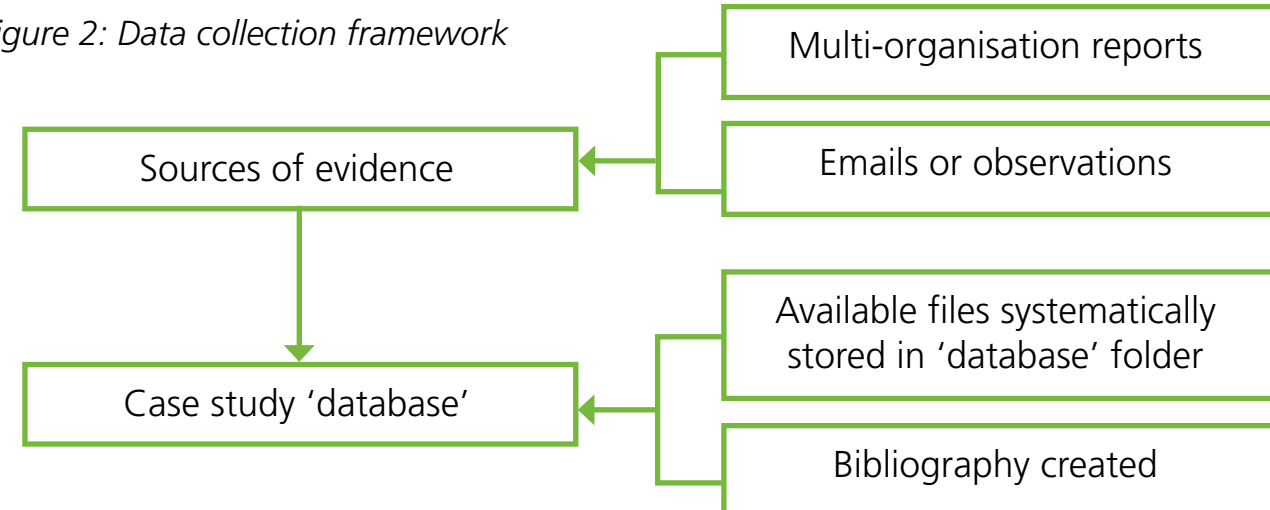
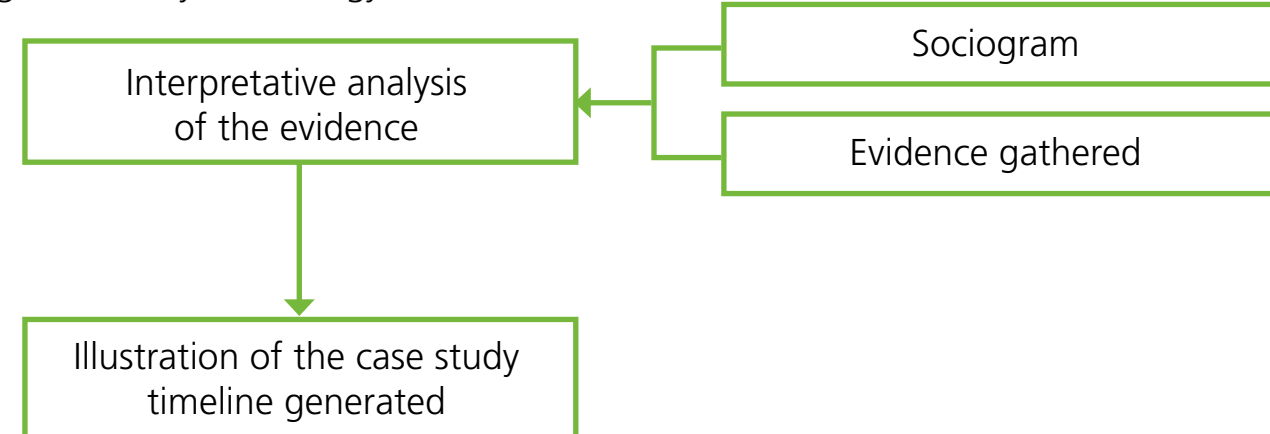


Figure 3: Analytical strategy



## Results

- Table 1 and Figure 4 display results of the various analytical strategies outlined in the Methods section (Figure 3). Members of the HIV Expert Group and PrEP Study Steering Group are shown in Figure 5.
- These data allowed us to generate a timeline of the provision of PrEP for HIV-1 infection in NHS Wales (Figure 7).
- These multi-organisational interactions, alongside interim data from PrEPared (Figure 6), contributed to the AWMSG review of PrEP in Wales in 2020.

Table 1: Evidence collected (categorised according to evidence type)

Evidence category	Quantity
Multi-organisation reports (i.e. infograph, HTA documents)	21
Communications (i.e. email, meeting minutes, media)	323

Figure 4: Sociogram of interactions between organisations

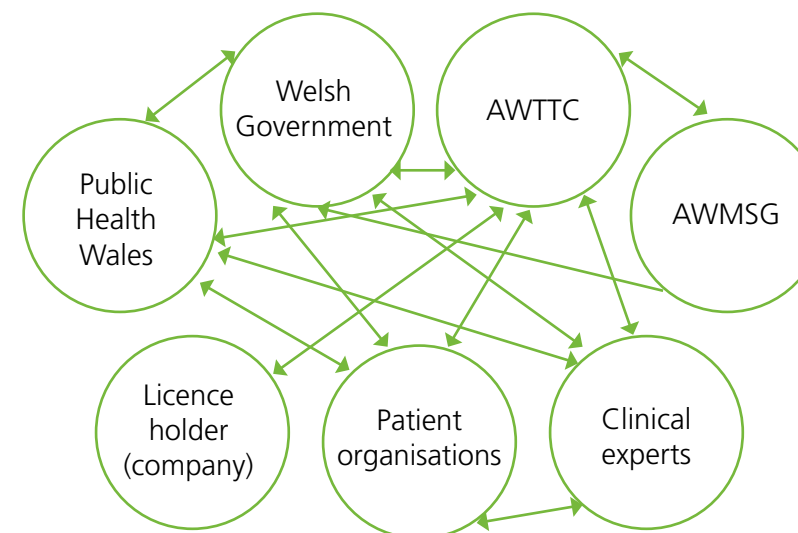
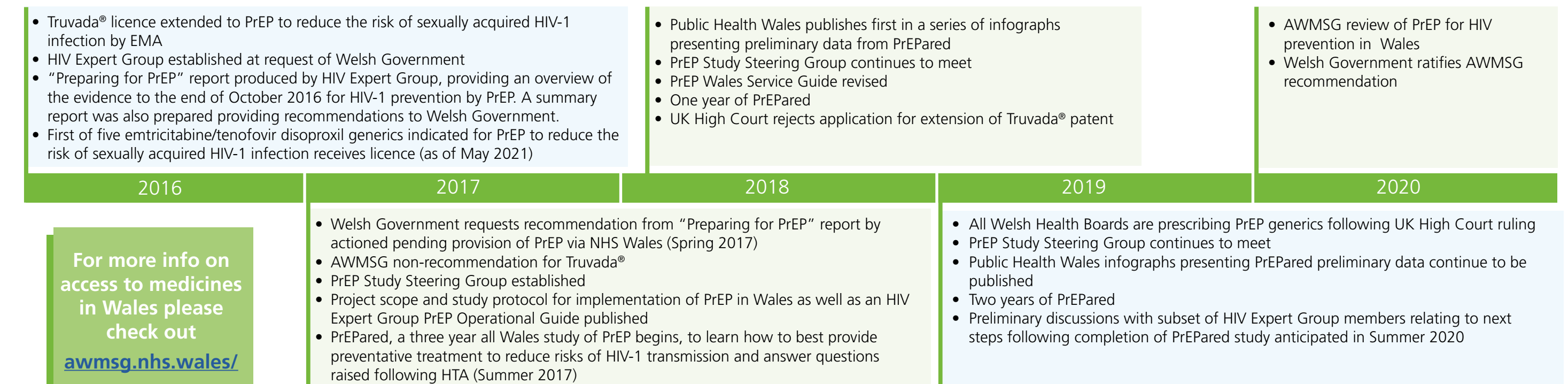


Figure 6: Interim data (2017-2019) taken from Public Health Wales infograph 'PrEP provision in Wales'

65% of those eligible for PrEP had started (n=1280)
43% of those starting PrEP remain on it (n=556)
No new HIV-1 diagnoses reported in people taking PrEP
356 people diagnosed with 612 episodes of STIs while on PrEP

Figure 7: Timeline of the provision of PrEP for prevention of HIV-1 infection in NHS Wales



For more info on access to medicines in Wales please check out [awmsg.nhs.wales/](http://awmsg.nhs.wales/)

## Conclusions

- Evaluating the potential value of PrEP required good understanding of local patient populations and context
- Novel co-productive stakeholder collaboration enabled local data gathering that supported the clinical case for PrEP
- This, in combination with the availability of less costly generics and the increased likelihood that PrEP could offer cost-effective pre-exposure prophylaxis, led to AWMSG recommending the use of PrEP in NHS Wales in 2020

## Future

- Novel stakeholder collaboration between public service organisations was an important factor in the provision of PrEP in Wales. It enabled the identification of key data requirements and facilitated the subsequent data collection which informed the review of PrEP.
- Due to the increasing complexity of HTA, novel organisational collaboration (both locally and internationally) and the incorporation of real world evidence into organisational decision making are likely to play more prominent roles in the future. They contributed to the provision of PrEP in Wales.