

HIV LONG-ACTING INJECTABLES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In pursuing this project, ADAP Advocacy sought to understand patient perspectives on long-acting injectables (LAIs). This occurred through three methods – a quantitative survey, a qualitative focus group, and an examination of data – across two populations – those who are HIV-positive (*the use of LAIs for treatment*) and those who are HIV-negative (*the use of LAIs for prevention*). This project was made possible by support from Gilead Sciences, Merck, and ViiV Healthcare.

ADAP Advocacy received 305 responses to the Perspectives Survey on LAI Treatments for People Living with HIV (“Treatment Survey”), which resulted in a total of 262 eligible participants from 38 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. In addition, ADAP Advocacy conducted a post-survey focus group with 8 participants to further explore patient awareness and knowledge of, perspectives about, and access to LAI treatment options. ADAP Advocacy received a total of 184 responses to the Perspectives Survey on LAI HIV Prevention Medications (“Prevention Survey”), which resulted in a total of 154 eligible participants from 35 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. ADAP Advocacy conducted a post-survey focus group with 8 participants to further explore patient awareness and knowledge of, perspectives about, and access to LAI prevention options.

The findings from this project serve as a starting point for ADAP Advocacy to conduct additional patient-centric research to learn more about the barriers as well as facilitators faced by patients seeking LAIs. This project’s research questions concerned patient treatment preferences, information pathways, utilization, and barriers to access.

KEY FINDINGS INCLUDE:

- The majority of respondents to the Treatment Survey (52.3%) indicated that they would prefer receiving LAI medication to treat their HIV over a daily pill-based regimen; In the Prevention Survey, the majority of respondents (71.4%) indicated they would prefer an LAI over a daily pill-based regimen to prevent HIV.
- The vast majority of respondents to the Treatment Survey (87.8%) indicated being aware of Cabenuva as an LAI to treat HIV. Of those respondents who learned about the existence of LAI medications through this survey, half (50%) reported being open to discussing them with a medical provider; Just over half of respondents to the Prevention Survey (58.4%) indicated being aware of Apretude for use as LAI PrEP. More than four out of every ten respondents (42.2%) who learned about the existence of Apretude through this survey reported being open to discussing it with a medical provider;
- A majority of respondents to the Treatment Survey (87.7%) indicated having no issues finding information about LAI medications. Of those respondents who did have trouble finding information (12.3%), most respondents had trouble finding information about insurance coverage (78.6%), prior authorization requirements (78.6%), and the cost they would have to pay to access LAIs (71.4%);
- Insurance coverage barriers impacted respondents’ ability to pursue LAIs, with more than 1 in 4 survey respondents (27%) reporting this barrier in the Treatment and Prevention surveys. In the case of PrEP, a majority of those experiencing this (66%) indicated that the barriers to access were so cumbersome that they decided Apretude was not right for them.

