

# INPLASY

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## Uptake of Human Immunodeficiency Virus Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis and associated factors among men who have sex with men in China, a scoping review and meta-analysis

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## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

**Support** - Funded by MSD China.

**Review Stage at time of this submission** - The review has not yet started.

**Conflicts of interest** - Qian Yao and Huanmei Wu are employee of MSD China. The remaining authors declare no other competing interests.

**INPLASY registration number:** INPLASY202650001

**Amendments** - This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 1 May 2026 and was last updated on 1 May 2026.

## INTRODUCTION

**Review question / Objective** To assess awareness, willingness, and current uptake of HIV PrEP among MSM in China.

To identify individual, community, and health-system factors that act as barriers or facilitators to PrEP implementation.

To characterize PrEP-eligible MSM in terms of clinical and behavioral profiles relevant to future long-acting PrEP adoption.

**Background** Human immunodeficiency virus infection remains a major public health challenge in China, particularly among men who have sex with men, where prevention uptake remains low. This highlights the need for stronger HIV prevention strategies in high-risk populations.

**Rationale** Although PrEP has proven effective in preventing Human immunodeficiency virus infection, its implementation in China remains

limited. Evidence on PrEP uptake is fragmented, and the barriers, facilitators, and decision-making factors influencing its use among men who have sex with men have not been systematically assessed. This study aims to evaluate PrEP uptake and its key determinants in China to support targeted HIV prevention strategies.

## METHODS

**Strategy of data synthesis** #1 ( "men who have sex with men"[Title/Abstract] OR MSM[Title/Abstract] OR "gay men"[Title/Abstract] OR "homosexual men"[Title/Abstract] OR "Homosexuality, Male"[MeSH Terms])

AND

#2 ( "pre-exposure prophylaxis"[Title/Abstract] OR PrEP[Title/Abstract] OR "HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis"[Title/Abstract] OR "Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis"[MeSH Terms])

AND

#3 ( uptake[Title/Abstract] OR utilization[Title/Abstract] OR use[Title/Abstract] OR adoption[Title/Abstract] OR awareness[Title/Abstract] OR acceptability[Title/Abstract] OR willingness[Title/Abstract] OR intention[Title/Abstract] OR preference\*[Title/Abstract] OR barrier\*[Title/Abstract] OR facilitator\*[Title/Abstract])

AND

#4 ( China[Title/Abstract] OR Chinese[Title/Abstract] OR "China"[MeSH Terms])

#5 #1 AND #2 AND #3 AND #4.

**Eligibility criteria** Population(s): Men who have sex with men (MSM) without age limitation

Interventions: For primary endpoint: PrEP(2-1-1, oral QD, LAI regimens etc.); For secondary endpoint: No intervention required.

Outcomes: 1. Primary endpoint: uptake status (percentage of MSM taken/taking PrEP)

2. Secondary endpoint: awareness, acceptability (including willingness to use PrEP), preferred PrEP options and reason (knowledge gap, efficacy, safety, convenience, price, privacy, access etc.), (barriers/drivers to PrEP utilization demographic profile of high-risk population. )

#### **Source of evidence screening and selection**

The screening process will involve a systematic review of titles, abstracts, and full texts, independently conducted by two reviewers to determine eligibility for inclusion. Studies will be considered eligible if they report on the awareness, uptake, or barriers to HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) among men who have sex with men (MSM) in China, including but not limited to randomized controlled trials, prospective or retrospective cohort studies, and cross-sectional surveys. Studies will be excluded if they focus on populations outside of China, on HIV-negative individuals not at risk, or on interventions not related to PrEP implementation. Duplicate records or studies failing to meet the pre-specified criteria will also be removed. After initial screening, selected articles will undergo further evaluation by the same reviewers to ensure consistency with inclusion criteria. Any discrepancies will be resolved through discussion with a third reviewer. The overall study selection process will be documented using a PRISMA flow diagram.

**Data management** All data collected for the study should be recorded accurately, promptly, and legibly. The investigator is responsible for reviewing data quality and relevance to the best of the investigator's knowledge. By signing this protocol either electronically or written, the investigator confirms that the quality and relevance

of data has been assessed to meet the minimum requirements for all study objectives.

**Language restriction** English and Chinese.

**Country(ies) involved** China.

**Keywords** Human immunodeficiency virus; Pre-exposure prophylaxis; Men who have sex with men.

#### **Contributions of each author**

Author 1 - Yijing Cai.

Author 2 - Heping Zhao.

Author 3 - Shiyun Lv.

Author 4 - Yao Qian.

Author 5 - Wu Huanmei.

Author 6 - Linghua Li.