



SUPPORT PrEP

Let's all do our part
to end the HIV/AIDS
epidemic in New York
by 2020.



Each year, 3,000+ New Yorkers are diagnosed with HIV. Many others are at risk for becoming infected.

To end the epidemic, we must take action to significantly reduce the number of new infections.

Increased access to PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) is one of the pillars of New York State's plan to end the AIDS epidemic by 2020.

PrEP is a prevention tool for people who are HIV negative and have a greater risk of exposure to the HIV virus. When taken as prescribed, PrEP has proven to be over 90% effective in preventing HIV infection. PrEP is a valuable addition to a comprehensive set of prevention strategies.

Now we have more tools than ever to help people stay HIV negative.



How Does PrEP Work?

PrEP is a protocol that involves the use of antiretroviral medication to prevent HIV infection. The once-daily pill (brand name Truvada®) should be part of a combination prevention plan that also includes:

- Periodic HIV testing
- Periodic STD screening
- Condom use
- Counseling about adherence and risk reduction

Multiple studies have shown that adherence to the daily medication regimen is essential for PrEP to be effective. Studies have also shown that PrEP is safe and has no serious side effects.

Who Should Take PrEP?

People in communities that are at high risk for HIV infection may be candidates for PrEP, such as young men having sex with men (MSM),

transgender women, women and men of color, and injection drug users. While these groups have disproportionately high rates of HIV infection, it is important for health care providers to understand their patients' individual risk factors for HIV infection when considering whether to prescribe PrEP.

More than
a quarter
of new
HIV
diagnoses
in 2013
were
among
young
MSM.

People who are HIV positive should not take PrEP. HIV negative status should be confirmed before PrEP is prescribed. PrEP is considered safe for women of child-bearing age.

What Can Health Care Providers Do?

PrEP is a powerful prevention tool. Health care providers can play an important role in making PrEP accessible to those who would most benefit.

Any licensed prescriber can prescribe PrEP, following accepted clinical guidelines; specialization in infectious diseases or HIV medicine is not required.

- Providers should talk to their patients about their sexual histories and ongoing risk for exposure to HIV to determine whether PrEP may be indicated.
- Primary care providers who see patients at high risk of HIV infection should consider offering PrEP to all eligible patients.
- Providers should also talk about PrEP with HIV positive patients who may have HIV negative partners.
- Register to be included in the PrEP/PEP Voluntary Directory. Use this link to access eight short questions to register as a provider: www.surveymonkey.com/s/S329ZK5

**New HIV
diagnoses
continue to
be heavily
concentrated
among
people of
color.**

Access to PrEP

Ability to pay should not limit access to PrEP. Reducing the rate of HIV infection will not only save lives, it will produce long-term health care cost savings.

New York State Medicaid and most insurance plans cover Truvada®, the only PrEP medication currently approved by the FDA. Those who are uninsured may be able to receive Truvada® through the Gilead patient assistance program, depending on income level. More information is available at <https://start.truvada.com/>. A *Payment Options for PrEP* chart is available at www.health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/general/prep/docs/payment_options.pdf

In addition, the PrEP Assistance Program, announced by New York State Gov. Andrew Cuomo in 2015, helps to increase access to PrEP by reimbursing enrolled providers for certain services, such as HIV testing, adherence counseling, and STD testing and treatment.

Reducing
new HIV
infections
from 3,000
to 750 per
year by
2020 would
result in
medical cost
savings of
over \$804
million.

Resources

The New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute has two information sites for clinicians:

www.hivguidelines.org

www.ceitraining.org

To speak with a clinician experienced in managing PrEP, call the NYS Department of Health Clinical Education Initiative (CEI) at **866-637-2342**

Many of the primary care providers in Amida Care's network have extensive experience prescribing anti-retroviral medication. For more information, please contact Amida Care Provider Services at **1-800-556-0674** or **provider-services@amidacareny.org**.

For more information about PrEP in New York City or to find out about becoming part of the New York City referral network, visit **NYC.gov**.





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