

PREP FOR SUCCESS



A GUIDE TO PREVENTING HIV

WHAT IS HIV AND PREP?

HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus)



- HIV is a virus that attacks the body's immune system.³
 - Without treatment, HIV can progress into Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS).³
 - There is currently no cure to eradicate an HIV infection.³
 - HIV is spread from bodily fluids, including blood, semen, breast milk, and vaginal fluid.⁴
 - However, most people acquire HIV through sexual intercourse.⁵

Symptoms of HIV

- Some symptoms of HIV include, but are not limited to are:³
 - Sore Throat³
 - Fatigue³.
 - Swollen Lymph Nodes³
 - Muscles Aches³
 - Night Sweats³
 - Chills³

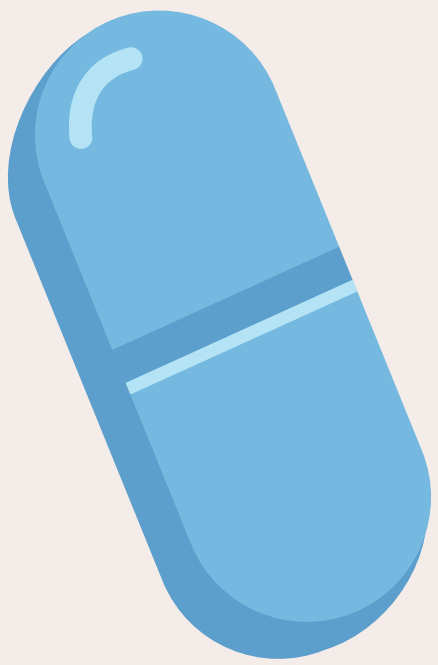


PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis)

- PrEP is a preventative drug taken by HIV negative people that prevents an infection from developing when exposed to HIV.¹
 - PrEP, when taken consistently, reduces the risk of HIV by 99% from sex and 74% by injection drug use.¹

TYPES OF PREP

*Currently, PrEP is offered in two forms: pill form or intramuscular injection. Both still reduce the risk of HIV by 99%.¹



Pill (Truvada or Descovy)

- A pill taken once a day.²
 - Truvada is effective for all at risk of HIV (sex & injection drug use).²
 - Descovy is only effective for sexually active men and transgender women, not to be taken by those at risk of HIV through receptive vaginal sex.²

Injection (Apretude)



- An injection given bimonthly (once every two months) by a health care provider.¹⁰
 - The injection is given intramuscularly (muscle) in the buttock.¹⁰
 - It is necessary to receive the bimonthly injections within a 14 day dosing window, either 7 days before or after the regular date.¹⁰
 - This form of PrEP is the only long-acting form of PrEP available in the United States.¹⁰

*PrEP is ONLY effective at preventing HIV when taken consistently. PrEP does NOT prevent other STI's.¹

ACCESS & TESTING

Accessing PrEP

- If you are interested starting or learning about more about PrEP talk to your doctor or health care provider today!²
 - Use the HIV Services locator below to access services near you!
 - locator.hiv.gov²
 - In most cases, generic forms of PrEP are free, but for forms like Descovy and Apretude, copay costs may be high, depending on insurance. However, payment assistance programs can help lower the costs.²
 - For Apretude: <https://www.viivconnect.com/>⁶
 - For Descovy: <https://www.descovyhcp.com/copay-and-advancing-access>⁷

Testing for HIV

- In order to be prescribed PrEP, a blood HIV test is necessary before starting either form of PrEP.²
 - However, HIV self-tests do exist and serve as a great way to know your HIV status.⁹
 - They involve swabbing of the gums to collect oral fluid that tests for HIV antibodies.⁹
- **REMEMBER:** Your HIV status does NOT define you or your worth!



REFERENCES

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