PrEP 101

PrEP Basics
PrEP stands for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis
The word “prophylaxis” means to prevent or control the spread of an infection or disease
PrEP can help prevent you from getting HIV if you are exposed to the virus

PrEP is an HIV prevention option that works by taking one pill every day

How Does It Work?
Some of the same medicines prescribed for the treatment of HIV can also be prescribed for its prevention
When taken every day, PrEP can provide a high level of protection against HIV, but only when used along with other preventive measures like condoms and other methods.

In several studies of PrEP, the risk of getting HIV from sex was much lower — about 99% lower — for those who took the medicines consistently than for those who didn’t take the pill

Some people in clinical studies of PrEP had early side effects such as an upset stomach or loss of appetite, but these were usually mild and went away in the first month. Some person also had urinary tract infections. No serious side effects were observed. You should tell your health care provider if these or other symptoms become severe or do not go away.

How Can I Start PrEP?
Talk with your doctor or health care provider to determine if PrEP is right for you

If you and your health care provider agree that PrEP might reduce your risk of getting HIV, he or she will test you for HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases

If PrEP is a good option for you, your health care provider will give you a prescription

How Do I Pay for PrEP?
PrEP is covered by most insurance programs

You can also contact your local health department and HIV/AIDS service organizations for more information

If you do not have insurance, your health care provider can direct you to medication assistance programs that may help pay for PrEP

PrEP Access

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Is PrEP Right For Me?
I am thinking about PrEP to prevent HIV. What now?

Do your research. Seek out information to help you decide cdc.gov/hiv/basics/prep.html

Make a list of why you think PrEP would be right for you

Frequently Asked Questions

Would PrEP be a good option for me?

How much would PrEP lower my risk of getting HIV?

What else can I do to lower my risk of getting HIV?

Can I get help paying for PrEP?

Are there any side effects to PrEP?

How often will I be tested for HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases?

Will you prescribe and manage PrEP for me?

If you decide PrEP is right for you

Take your pill every day

Follow your health care provider’s advice about how to take your pill. This will give it the best chance to prevent HIV

Tell your health care provider if you have trouble remembering to take your pill or want to stop PrEP

Start Talking. Stop HIV.
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PN 22331
GET INFORMED.
MAKE THE RIGHT
CHOICE FOR YOU.

ARE YOU READY FOR
PrEP?

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