

July 2014

Dear Colleague:

In an effort to increase access to HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), the New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute (NYSDOH AI) is compiling a list of providers that prescribe PrEP/PEP for a voluntary directory. The NYSDOH AI supports the addition of PrEP/PEP to the menu of evidence-based interventions to prevent HIV transmission.

PrEP is the use of anti-HIV medications as a form of HIV prevention. Many clinics now offer PrEP to patients who have ongoing behavior that places them at high risk for HIV infection.

PEP is the use of anti-HIV medications as a form of HIV prevention for individuals exposed to HIV.

Over the past few years, studies evaluating the efficacy of PrEP have shown promising results. On the national level, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has issued official guidance for men who have sex with men (MSM), heterosexually active adults, and injecting drug users in January 2011, August 2012, and June 2013, respectively. In July 2012, the Food and Drug Administration approved the use of tenofovir + emtricitabine (TDF/FTC, Truvada®) for use of PrEP in adults. Although the overall number of new HIV infections is decreasing in New York State, some subpopulations, such as young men who have sex with men (YMSM), continue to show a rise in the number of newly diagnosed HIV infections. In addition, new infections continue to be disproportionately higher in communities of color. PrEP may be an effective option to augment behavior change in these high-risk populations.

The NYSDOH AI recognizes that a comprehensive system-wide approach is necessary to ensure that patients are effectively managed on PrEP, and that individuals throughout the State who will most likely benefit have access to PrEP. Key populations that are most at risk for HIV, such as MSM, male to female transgender persons, serodiscordant couples, and injection drug users, should be prioritized for outreach and access to ensure that they are aware of PrEP and its benefits. In New York State, there is a broad network of community-based providers, including local health departments and STD clinics, which offer a full range of prevention, primary care, and supportive services to high-risk individuals. This network provides a firm foundation upon which to base targeted efforts to identify high risk-individuals and replicate, to the extent possible, the approaches used in the highly successful clinical trials of PrEP.

NYS Medicaid covers Truvada® for pre-exposure prophylaxis, however; pre-approval is required. The patient must have an HIV negative test documented and may only receive a 30 day supply of medication with two refills. Most insurance plans will cover Truvada®. Uninsured patients may receive Truvada® through the Gilead patient assistance program. (<https://start.truvada.com/>)

There is an opportunity at the end of the survey to suggest other clinics/providers who, to your knowledge, are prescribing PrEP/PEP. We will contact the provider and ask for their permission to be listed. Please click on this link to access eight short questions to register as a provider.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/S329ZK5>

If you have any questions regarding PrEP/PEP please call Lyn Stevens, NP, MS, ACRN at 518-473-8815 or email lyn.stevens@health.ny.gov.

Sincerely,

Dan O'Connell
Director
AIDS Institute