# PrEP

## **Talking points for pharmacists**

Pre-exposure prophylaxis or PrEP is a medication that is very effective at preventing HIV.

### PrEP

- Is right for anyone at risk for HIV.
- Is only for people who are HIV negative.
- Reduces the risk of getting HIV from sex by about 99% when taken daily CDC.
- Reduces the risk of getting HIV by at least 74% among people who inject drugs CDC.

#### Facts about PrEP

- HIV testing is done before starting PrEP because PrEP is only for people who are HIV negative.
- PrEP requires a prescription from a health care provider.
- Some people have side effects such as nausea.
  - Symptoms generally subside over time.
  - ▶ No serious side effects have been observed.
  - ▶ Tell your health care provider if side effects are severe or do not go away.
- Taking PrEP involves:
  - ► HIV testing every three months.
  - Screening for sexually transmitted infections (STIs).
  - ► Appointments with a health care provider .
- Paying for PrEP:
  - ▶ Medicaid and all other insurance plans with prescription drug plans cover PrEP.
  - ► Assistance is available if uninsured, or if co-pay or deductible is too high.
- It's important to take the medicine as directed.
- Condoms provide additional protection against HIV and STIs.

To learn more, talk to your health care provider or visit: **PrEPforsex.org**. To find a local **PrEP** provider visit: **health.ny.gov/PrEP**.

#### Some risk factors for getting HIV

People who: have multiple sex partners; go to sex parties; had a recent STI; use drugs during sex; inject drugs; inject hormones and silicone; trade sex for money, drugs, or housing; don't want to worry about partner's HIV status; think they might be exposed to HIV; or are afraid of (an) intimate partner(s).



