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).