



Department of Health

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

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Dear Health Care Provider:

The New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute appreciates your support for HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) as reflected by your inclusion in our PrEP/PEP Voluntary Provider Directory. I am writing to bring your attention to another important opportunity to assist your patients and local community by expanding access to PEP.

Effective March 14, 2017, the New York State Board of Regents has amended scope of practice regulations to allow licensed pharmacists who are acting under a non-patient specific standing order from a licensed physician or nurse practitioner to dispense seven days of HIV PEP medication to individuals who present in the pharmacy with a recent exposure to HIV. Community pharmacists are trusted individuals who are in an excellent position to facilitate early initiation of PEP and then link these patients back to you, or another health care provider, for a full evaluation of the exposure and follow-up care, including a prescription for the remaining days of the 28-day PEP medication regimen.

As a licensed medical provider with experience managing patients on PEP, you are well positioned to partner with a local pharmacy on a non-patient specific standing order and protocol. Initial discussions with the pharmacy community in NYS indicate that many pharmacists are interested in participating in the effort to expand access to PEP. To support the amended scope of practice of pharmacists, the AIDS Institute has developed a wide range of resources including a **Sample Standing Order and Protocol** that partnering health care providers, like you, can use as the basis of your agreement with a pharmacist. The **Sample Standing Order and Protocol** and a **Fact Sheet and Frequently Asked Questions** document are attached. In addition, training materials for pharmacists and educational materials for consumers are now being finalized.

If you are interested in partnering with community pharmacies so that your patients and local community will have expanded access to PEP, I would encourage you to carefully review the attached materials and begin reaching out to potential pharmacy partners in your area. The responsibilities of health care providers who issue the non-patient specific standing order are clearly outlined in the attached FAQ. The AIDS Institute is establishing a pilot program with pharmacists that will begin in March of 2018 to fully evaluate pharmacy initiation of PEP.

Participation in the pilot is voluntary. If you have questions or would like more information, please email peppharmacy@health.ny.gov.

The New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute appreciates your ongoing efforts to provide HIV treatment and access to PrEP and PEP which are critical to reach our shared goal of ending the AIDS epidemic by the end of 2020. We believe that the policy change which permits initiation of PEP in the pharmacy setting provides an important new tool to help us achieve our goal.

Sincerely,

Lyn C. Stevens, MS, NP, ACRN
Acting Medical Director, Office of the Medical Director
New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute