



Department of Health

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Commissioner

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Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner

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Dear Colleague,

Since 2014, The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) has strongly endorsed PrEP as a safe and effective evidence-based biomedical intervention for the prevention of HIV. I am writing to affirm our unwavering commitment to reduce barriers to and increase uptake of PrEP as the science and implementation methods continue to evolve, and to share a few important updates.

➤ [Updated Clinical Recommendations \(May 2022\)](#)

As you may know, in December 2021 the FDA approved long-acting injectable cabotegravir (brand name Apretude) for use as PrEP for sexual exposures in adults and adolescents. We are pleased that this new tool is available to us in our effort to [end the HIV epidemic](#). To advance this development, the NYSDOH AIDS Institute has issued updated clinical practice recommendations within the [PrEP to Prevent HIV and Promote Sexual Health](#) guideline to increase awareness and knowledge of long-acting injectable PrEP among clinicians in NYS and beyond. Helpful topics include:

- [Choosing and Prescribing a PrEP Regimen](#)
- Laboratory Testing [before PrEP initiation](#) and [ongoing](#) while on PrEP
- [Implementation Strategies](#) for what to consider when including an injectable option in PrEP programs
- [Care Provider Checklists](#) for PrEP initiation, regimen choice, and follow-up

➤ [Access](#)

As established by both [NYS](#) and [federal](#) regulation since January 2020, insurance issuers must provide coverage for PrEP for the prevention of HIV infection (medication as well as office visits, testing, and adherence counseling) at no cost sharing, meaning services must be covered before any deductible and without coinsurance or a copayment.

However, insurance coverage and payment options for the newly available long-acting injectable PrEP are still developing. See current available information on addressing the cost of PrEP here: [Payment Options for Adults and Adolescents for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis \(PrEP\)](#) (July 2022).

➤ [Post-exposure Prophylaxis \(PEP\)](#)

A comprehensive HIV prevention plan for our communities also includes PEP. Because exposure to HIV is a medical emergency, it is important to be well-informed of available resources to connect individuals in NYS to PEP when needed. The NYSDOH AIDS Institute continues to provide [resources for consumers to increase awareness of PEP](#) and clinical practice guidelines for care providers to offer [PEP to prevent HIV](#) in addition to access to medical professionals through the hotlines listed below:

- For consumers: The NYS or NYC PEP Hotlines provide consumers with fast access to knowledgeable PEP providers:
 - **Outside NYC: 844-PEP4NOW (844-737-4669)**
 - **In NYC: 844-3-PEP NYC (844-373-7692)**
- For clinicians: The [NYS Clinical Education Initiative \(CEI\)](#) Line connects clinicians in NYS with PEP specialists. Call **1-866-637-2342, and press “1” for HIV PEP**. The CEI Line is available 24/7 for questions regarding HIV PEP.
(Note: The CEI line also provides consultations for PrEP, non-emergency HIV, hepatitis C, drug user health, and sexually transmitted diseases during normal business hours.)

Please keep this information handy and share widely among your professional and personal networks.

I thank you for your dedication as we work together to bring all New Yorkers closer to our goal of ending the HIV epidemic in our State.

Sincerely,

Charles John Gonzalez, M.D.
Medical Director, AIDS Institute
New York State Department of Health