



# TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RESOURCE

## Technical Assistance Resource: Health Center Provision of HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis

### Purpose

This Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) Health Center Program technical assistance resource (TAR) highlights information and resources for the provision of HIV Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) in health centers. This TAR is intended to assist health centers considering providing PrEP including: summary guidelines for PrEP, information on reimbursement for PrEP, and links to resources for providers and consumers about this service.

### Background

Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) is a powerful prevention tool against HIV transmission recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for individuals who are at substantial risk for contracting HIV.<sup>1</sup> When taken consistently, PrEP reduces the risk of HIV infection in people who are at high risk by up to 92%.<sup>2</sup> Given the success of PrEP in preventing HIV transmission in individuals at high risk, the [National HIV/AIDS Strategy: Updated to 2020 \(NHAS 2020\)](#) prioritizes PrEP in *Goal 1: Reduce New Infections*.<sup>3</sup>

PrEP is an HIV prevention tool whereby HIV negative people who are at high risk of infection can take antiretroviral medications daily to lower their chances of becoming infected if they are exposed. PrEP can be combined with condoms and other prevention methods to provide even greater protection than when used alone.<sup>1</sup>

The [CDC 2014 PrEP clinical guidelines](#) recommend that health care providers consider advising on the use of PrEP for their HIV-uninfected patients for any of the following indications:<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis. <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/prep/>.

<sup>2</sup> Grant, Robert G., et al. "Pre-exposure Chemoprophylaxis for HIV Prevention in Men Who Have Sex with Men." *The New England Journal of Medicine* 363;27 (December 30, 2010): 2587-2599. <http://www.nejm.org/doi/pdf/10.1056/NEJMoa1011205>

<sup>3</sup> National HIV/AIDS Strategy <https://www.aids.gov/federal-resources/national-hiv-aids-strategy/nhas-update.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> US Public Health Service Pre-exposure prophylaxis for the prevention of HIV infection in the United States – 2014. A Clinical Practice Guideline <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/guidelines/PrEPguidelines2014.pdf>

- Anyone who is in an ongoing sexual relationship with an HIV-infected partner
- A gay or bisexual man who has had sex without a condom or has been diagnosed with a sexually transmitted infection within the past six months, and is not in a mutually monogamous relationship with a partner who recently tested HIV-negative
- A heterosexual man or woman who does not always use condoms when having sex with partners known to be at risk for HIV (for example, injecting drug users or bisexual male partners of unknown HIV status), and is not in a mutually-monogamous relationship with a partner who recently tested HIV-negative
- Anyone who has, within the past six months, injected illicit drugs and shared equipment or been in a treatment program for injection drug use.

### **The Health Center Program and PrEP**

The BPHC supports health centers in providing comprehensive, culturally competent, and high quality primary and preventive health services to underserved communities and populations. Health centers are uniquely positioned to use their service delivery models, clinical expertise, and structural capacity to support the provision of PrEP for the populations they serve. BPHC encourages health centers to evaluate the potential benefits to their patients and consider the capacity of the organization to implement PrEP by leveraging their existing expertise and administrative and clinical infrastructures.

PrEP may be administered through primary care visits (i.e., internal medicine or family practice), appropriate prescribing and dispensing of medications, and related primary and additional services within the health center's scope of project. Health centers that provide PrEP are required to follow Health Center Program statute, regulations and policies, including those described in [Policy Information Notice 2014-02](#), "Sliding Fee Discount and Related Billing and Collections Program Requirements," which addresses access to services regardless of ability to pay.

In addition, health centers that are eligible and enrolled as a covered entity in the 340B Drug Pricing Program (section 340B of the Public Health Service Act) may utilize the 340B Program to purchase medication used for PrEP at a discounted 340B price, as permitted by 340B Program requirements. The covered entity must ensure that the drug meets the definition of a covered outpatient drug as set forth in section 1927(k) of the Social Security Act. The covered entity must also ensure that all patients receiving the drug meet HRSA's guidelines for the definition of a patient (61 FR 55156, October 24, 1996). For more information on the 340B Program, see [www.hrsa.gov/opa](http://www.hrsa.gov/opa).

Health centers that also receive Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) funds may not use RWHAP funds to pay for PrEP medications, diagnostics or PrEP-related provider visits (i.e., initial visit, screening, follow-up) because RWHAP funds may only be used for the care and treatment of

people diagnosed with HIV. While RWHAP funds cannot be used to support PrEP, RWHAP funds can be used for risk reduction counseling and targeted testing, which are part of a comprehensive PrEP program. Furthermore, existing RWHAP expertise and administrative and clinical infrastructures can be leveraged towards the establishment of a comprehensive PrEP program.

Private insurance companies, state Medicaid programs and Medicare Part D Plans may cover PrEP medication. A prior authorization, co-pays and/or deductibles may be required to access this medication. Some states have developed PrEP drug assistance programs to help insured patients with co-pays or help financially eligible uninsured/underinsured patients with PrEP-related visits and lab testing. The PrEP drug manufacturer also has programs that may assist health centers in providing access to PrEP.

## Resources

The CDC has prepared summary of PrEP guidelines<sup>5</sup> that includes target population, what to prescribe, monitoring and follow-up recommendations and related services. In addition, the following resources may assist health centers in enhancing access to PrEP for the populations they serve and addressing potential barriers to implementing PrEP. BPHC will continue to provide additional resources as they become available.

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis. <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/prep/>. CDC resources on PrEP, including fact sheets, guidelines, and resources for providers and patients.
2. Grant, Robert G., et al. "Pre-exposure Chemoprophylaxis for HIV Prevention in Men Who Have Sex with Men." *The New England Journal of Medicine* 363;27 (December 30, 2010): 2587-2599.
3. National HIV/AIDS Strategy <https://www.aids.gov/federal-resources/national-hiv-aids-strategy/nhas-update.pdf>
4. US Public Health Service Pre-exposure prophylaxis for the prevention of HIV infection in the United States – 2014. A Clinical Practice Guideline <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/guidelines/PrEPguidelines2014.pdf>
5. US Public Health Service Pre-exposure prophylaxis for the prevention of HIV infection in the United States – 2014 Clinical Providers' Supplement <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/PrEPProviderSupplement2014.pdf>  
Includes risk assessment tools, provider checklist, PrEP FAQs for patients, and counseling and monitoring guidance.
6. HRSA HIV/AIDS Bureau (HAB) Program Letter to RWHAP grantees about PrEP <http://hab.hrsa.gov/manageyourgrant/prepletter062216.pdf>

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<sup>5</sup> CDC Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV Prevention: [http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/PrEP\\_fact\\_sheet\\_final.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/PrEP_fact_sheet_final.pdf)

7. Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis fact sheet for patients. <https://www.aids.gov/hiv-aids-basics/prevention/reduce-your-risk/pre-exposure-prophylaxis/>
8. Payment Options for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) [https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/general/prep/docs/payment\\_options.pdf](https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/general/prep/docs/payment_options.pdf)
9. Paying for PrEP. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/risk/prep/cdc-hiv-paying-for-prep.pdf>.