

PrEP Talking Points for Pharmacists

An open and honest conversation



If a patient says...	Their pharmacist could say...
<i>Is it true that there is a medication that can prevent someone from getting HIV?</i>	Yes! PrEP (short for HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis) is up to 99% effective at reducing HIV transmission through sex. PrEP is also effective at reducing HIV transmission from injection drug use (IDU) when taken as prescribed. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved three medications as PrEP for HIV. Talk with your healthcare provider to decide which medication is right for you.
<i>If I'm taking PrEP, I don't need to use condoms.</i>	PrEP only protects against HIV transmission. PrEP does not protect against sexually transmitted infections (STIs) like syphilis, gonorrhea, or chlamydia. Having an STI increases your risk of getting HIV. When you take PrEP, you should get tested regularly for STIs. Early diagnosis and treatment of STIs can protect your health and prevent passing an STI to your partners. Consider using safer sex products like condoms to protect yourself from STIs.
<i>It's too expensive.</i>	Most health insurance plans, including Medicaid, cover the cost of PrEP without co-pays.
<i>There are too many side effects – it isn't safe.</i>	PrEP is very safe. Most people have few or no side effects. If you are on injectable PrEP (Apretude), the injection site may become sore or irritated. Talk to your healthcare provider about any side effects.
<i>That's not for me.</i>	PrEP is for everyone who is or plans to be sexually active. It's for people who identify as straight, gay, or bisexual. PrEP is for male, female, transgender, or gender non-conforming individuals, as well as anyone over the age of 12. Teens can get PrEP confidentially without getting their parents involved.
<i>I don't want to take another pill.</i>	There are three medications approved by the FDA as PrEP: Truvada (TDF/FTC), Descovy (TAF/FTC), and Apretude (CAB-LA). Apretude is a long-acting injectable medication. Truvada and Descovy are oral medications. You can work with a healthcare provider to decide if daily PrEP, on-demand PrEP, or long-acting injectable PrEP is right for you.
<i>I don't want another doctor's appointment.</i>	People who want to take PrEP can discuss the best follow-up schedule for them with their healthcare provider.