



What You Should Know About: **HIV, PrEP, and You**

Be Your Own Health Advocate!

Use your Medicaid benefits to help you stay healthy.

These Medicaid benefits can help you prevent HIV infection:

- **Medical visits**, so you can talk with your health care provider about your risk for HIV infection and whether PrEP is right for you.
- **PrEP medication**, which can help prevent HIV infection when taken as directed.
- **Testing related to PrEP**, to be sure you stay healthy.

PrEP medication, medical visits, and testing associated with taking PrEP are covered by your Medicaid insurance just like your other health benefits.

If you have questions about using your benefits, call the phone number listed on your Medicaid card.

Visit www.prepforsex.org to learn more about PrEP.

Understanding HIV

Did you know...?

- Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is a virus that attacks the body's immune system.
- Currently, there is no cure for HIV. Someone who gets HIV has it for life.
- An estimated 1.2 million Americans age 13 and older are living with HIV.¹
- You can get HIV by having sex without a condom. You can also get HIV by sharing syringes, needles, and other things used to inject drugs.
- The only way to know for sure if you have HIV is to get an HIV test.

Preventing HIV with PrEP

- Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) is single-tablet medication that prevents HIV in case you are exposed to HIV in the future.
- When taken as prescribed, PrEP works well, reducing the risk of getting HIV up to 99 percent in HIV-negative individuals.
- PrEP is only for people who are not living with HIV. An HIV test is needed before starting PrEP. HIV testing should be repeated every three months while taking it.
- If you are on birth control, hormone therapy, are pregnant, or even are breastfeeding, you can still take PrEP safely.

What can you do?



Talk with your health care provider about your risk for HIV and whether PrEP is right for you.



If your health care provider prescribes PrEP, ask about ways to help you take PrEP on schedule.



Follow your health care provider's instructions for taking PrEP medication, being tested for HIV, and follow-up medical visits.



PrEP does not prevent other sexually transmitted infections. Use condoms, clean needles, and clean injection supplies to prevent other health issues. Get tested regularly for sexually transmitted infections.



If you think you were already exposed to HIV, seek medical attention immediately. Talk to a medical professional about post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) or call the PEP hotline:

In New York City:
844-3-PEP4NYC (844-373-7692)
Outside New York City:
844-PEP4NOW (844-737-4669)

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/statistics/overview/index.html>