

What is Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)? - PrEP, part 1

“PrEP” is medicine and stands for **pre-exposure prophylaxis**.



PrEP is a way to prevent HIV infection in someone who does not have HIV but who is at very high risk of getting it. If taken every day, this medicine can prevent HIV infection.

PrEP is a pill that contains two medicines. The two medicines are tenofovir and emtricitabine, currently sold under the name Truvada. This is pronounced **tru vá duh**. These medicines are also used to treat HIV.

If someone takes PrEP and they are exposed to HIV through sex or injection drug use, these medicines can work to keep the virus from infecting their body.

When PrEP is combined with condoms and other prevention methods, they provide even greater protection than when each is used alone. But people who use PrEP must commit to taking the drug every day and seeing their health care provider for follow-up every 3 months.



Studies have shown that PrEP is highly effective for preventing HIV if it is used as prescribed. PrEP is much less effective when it is not taken every day as prescribed.



Be sure to get answers to any questions you have about HIV/AIDS. Your public health department, health care provider, and public library can help.

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