

## What should I know before I start taking PrEP? - PrEP, part 3



PrEP, pre-exposure prophylaxis, is medicine for people who do not have HIV but are at very high risk for getting it from sex or injection drug use.

PrEP can be prescribed only by a health care provider, so talk to yours to find out if PrEP is right for you. You must take PrEP every day for it to work.

You will need to take an HIV test before beginning PrEP to be sure you don't already have HIV. While you're taking PrEP, you will have to visit your health care provider every 2-3 months for regular follow-ups.

The cost of PrEP is covered by many health insurance programs, and a commercial medication assistance program provides free PrEP to people with limited income and no insurance to cover PrEP care.

### **Can you start PrEP after you have been exposed to HIV?**

No. PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) is only for people who are currently at very high risk of HIV infection and have tested negative for HIV.



PrEP doesn't give you any protection against other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). If you are taking PrEP because of injection drug use risks, PrEP will not protect you from getting hepatitis C or other drug related infections.

While PrEP can greatly lower your risk of HIV infection if taken every day, you can reduce your risk even further by having low risk behaviors like always using condoms.



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.