

Talk to your healthcare provider - Sexual risks, part 6

Healthcare providers are key partners in helping you maintain a healthy and safe sex life.

They can provide advice on protecting yourself from sexually transmitted diseases or STDs and test you for these infections. They can even assist you and your sexual partner in talking with each other about sexual issues.



Be honest with your healthcare provider about things that might affect your physical and mental health. This includes details about your sex life.

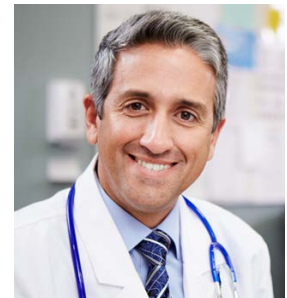


Talk to your healthcare provider if you are at very high risk for HIV infection. For example, if you have an HIV-positive sexual partner, you are at higher risk of HIV infection.

Your healthcare provider can tell you about pre-exposure prophylaxis or PrEP. This is medicine that prevents HIV infection.

If you think you may have been exposed to HIV during sex, talk to your health care provider or emergency room doctor right away. They can tell you about PEP. PEP or post-exposure prophylaxis is medicine that prevents HIV infection after you have been exposed. The sooner you start PEP, the better; every hour counts.

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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