

## The role of PEP and PrEP - Sexual risks, part 7



“PrEP” stands for **pre-exposure prophylaxis**. PrEP is medicine to prevent HIV infection for people who don’t have HIV but who are at very high risk of getting it.

Talk honestly with your healthcare provider about your sexual activity to see if you are at high risk for HIV. PrEP can be prescribed only by a healthcare provider, so find out if it is the right HIV prevention strategy for you.

"PEP" stands for **post-exposure prophylaxis**. PEP is a medicine to prevent HIV infection after a possible recent HIV exposure. This can happen if a condom breaks during sex or if you are the victim of a sexual assault.

PEP should only be used in emergency situations. It must be started within 72 hours after a possible exposure to HIV. So if you think you’ve been exposed to HIV, talk to your healthcare provider or an emergency room doctor about PEP right away.



Both PEP and PrEP work very well, but are not 100% effective. So you should continue to use condoms and talking honestly with your sexual partners while taking the medicine.

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.