

## HIV and Drug Abuse - The role of PEP and PrEP - Substance Abuse, 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.

PrEP can be prescribed only by a health care provider, so talk to your provider to find out if PrEP is the right HIV prevention strategy for you.

PrEP is recommended if you have injected drugs in the past 6 months, and you have either:

- Shared needles or injection equipment in the past 6 months, or
- Been in a drug treatment program in the past 6 months.

“**PEP**” stands for **post-exposure prophylaxis**. PEP is a medicine to prevent HIV infection after a possible recent exposure to the virus. If you think you might have been exposed to HIV through drug use with shared needles or drug preparation equipment, immediately talk to your health care provider or an emergency room doctor about PEP.



PEP should be used only in emergency situations. It must be started within 72 hours after a possible exposure to HIV.

Both PEP and PrEP work very well, but are not 100% effective. You should stop using drugs while taking the medicine. If you can't stop, then be sure you do not share needles or drug equipment.

Talk to your drug sharing partners about lowering the risk for HIV and about PEP and PrEP.



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.