Pharmacy-based PrEP & PEP

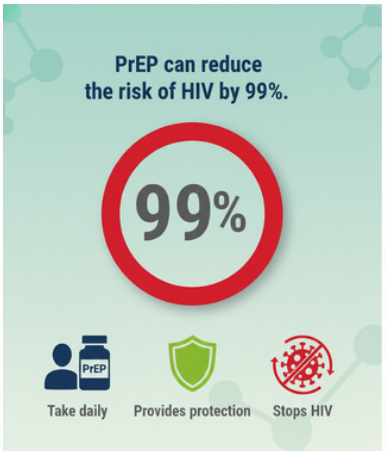
Why does it matter?

The challenge: HIV continues to be a critical public health challenge in the United States, with an estimated 1.2 million people currently living with the virus.

The strategy: Prevention remains our absolute best tool to aggressively reduce new infections across communities.

How can pharmacists help end the HIV epidemic?

- Bridge gaps in the healthcare system
- Increase community access to preventative care
- Reduce stigma around HIV testing and prevention
- The expansion of pharmacist prescribing allows individuals to access prevention methods in a new way



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Key opportunities for pharmacists

Prevention metric	Utah 2024/2023 data	Pharmacist impact
PrEP users / 100K residents	207 users/100K (5,721 people received PrEP in 2024)	Increase this number by reaching patients who may not see a primary care provider.
PrEP-to-need ratio (PnR)	37.4 (this low number shows the gap in those who could benefit from PrEP but not accessing prevention)	Directly improve this ratio by utilizing prescriptive authority to increase uptake.
Lifetime HIV testing	29.5% (Survey estimate of residents tested for HIV at least once as of 2023)	Integrate routine HIV screening and point-of-care testing into pharmacy workflow to dramatically increase this percentage.

Nearly 90% of Americans live within five miles of a pharmacy. This offers both accessibility and convenience that eliminates the need for a separate, formal clinic appointment. This is especially true for those living in rural communities.

Utah law

In January 2021, an amendment to the Administrative Rule was approved, "Pharmacy Practice Act Rule" R156-17b-627 "Operating Standards - Prescription of Drugs or Devices by a Pharmacist." Under this law, pharmacists are able to prescribe PrEP and PEP. Administrative rule R156-17b-627

Exciting news, starting in January of 2026 pharmacists are now recognized as health care providers when prescribing under the Pharmacy Practice Act Rule. This enables pharmacists to write the prescriptions and bill insurance for their services for their time. This includes prescribing PrEP and PEP. Administrative rule 31A-22-662

The PrEP/PEP guidance documents can be found on the DOPL website here.

Collaborative practice agreements (CPA)

CPAs are an important part of pharmacists prescribing of PrEP/PEP. CPA help address common barriers to implimenting a successful PrEP/PEP program ina pharmacy setting. They allow pharmacists to obtain the necessary monitoring labortory studies to prescribe PrEP/PEP.

Indication	Labs	Medication	Follow-up
Per CDC Guidelines: Any person who seeks PrEP is eligibleto receive PrEP. **Referral Required:** • Existing HIV infection · Existing HBV infection · CrCI ≤ 30 mL/min or under care for chronic kidney disease . Contraindicated home medications	**Required:** · HIV Ag/Ab (required at start) . Serum Creatinine STI testing (3 sites) . Syphilis . Gonorrhea Chlamydia · HBV surface antigen Screening Required: · Signs/symptoms of STI . Condomless sex in the past two weeks	Based on pharmacist judgement after patient assessment: • Truvada® or generic • Descovy® **Duration:** 30 days with no refills if baseline testing not completed 90 days otherwise . Refill quantity only until next scheduled follow-up	**Every 3 months:** • HIV Ag/Ab **Every 6 months:** • STI testing • serum creatinine **Annually:** • STI testing • For patients on Descovy®, assess weight, triglyceride, and cholesterol levels

Resources on the importance of implementing CPAs can be found at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and NACCHO creating a pharmacists collaborative practice agreement.

Prescribing resources

There are several patient assistance programs to help patients with the cost of their prescriptions.

Descovy
Biktarvy

NASTAD medical billing coding guide
Prepped to Serve: The Community Pharmacy's HIV Prevention Toolkit
Billing codes for medical therapy management
Billing tips for pharmacists
Billing Guidance for Pharmacists' Professional and Patient Care Services

Learning opportunities

HIV Prevention: The advancing role of pharmacists
National HIV curriculum
HealthHIV
ExchangeCME
PrEP in a Pharmacy
CDC clinical guidance for PrEP
CDC clinical guidance for PEP
Expanding HIV Prevention in Colorado—and Nationwide: A PEP/PrEP Training Guide for Pharmacists

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