

www.PreP4Illinois.com

November 14, 2017

Dear Health Care Provider,

In 2012, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the use of Truvada® (a fixed dose combination of emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) as a **pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV negative individuals**.

In March of 2015, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) shared with health care providers across the state the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) and the U.S. Public Health Service's clinical guidelines recommending health care providers consider prescribing pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for patients at significant risk for acquiring HIV. **IDPH continues to support the provision of PrEP as an evidence-based biomedical intervention to prevent HIV infections and hopes to expand both the provider base and usage of PrEP for Illinois residents.**

When taken every day, PrEP is safe and highly effective in preventing HIV infection. This strategy of providing daily oral antiretroviral drugs continuously to people who are HIV negative *and* who are at elevated risk for acquiring HIV from sex or injection drug use has proven to be extremely effective in reducing HIV acquisition. In several studies of PrEP, the risk of getting HIV infection was lower—more than 90% lower for sexual exposure and 70% lower for injection drug use exposure—for participants who took the medicines consistently than for those who didn't take the medicines.

NOTE: PrEP's effectiveness depends on patient adherence; PrEP does not work nearly as well if it is not taken daily.

The CDC PrEP guidelines acknowledge that providers play a central role in increasing awareness and uptake of PrEP. Providers can:

- Prescribe PrEP to those patients with indications for its use – condomless sex with multiple sex partners of unknown HIV status and/or sharing equipment to inject drugs.
- Use the guidelines and providers' supplement to get information about counseling patients who use PrEP about adherence and other HIV risk reduction methods, including condom use.
- Regularly monitor HIV infection status, side effects, adherence, and encourage patients to use PrEP with other proven prevention strategies including the use of condoms, lubrication, sterile syringes or other risk reduction strategies.

As a clinician, you play a critical role in helping to realize the promise of PrEP for HIV prevention in the Illinois. Starting today, you can take several key steps to help expand uptake of PrEP and help address some of the practical issues for its effective delivery. These include:

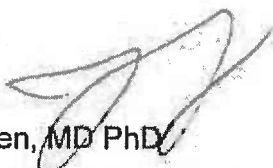
- Prescribing PrEP to those patients with indications for its use
- Offer education to increasing awareness of this safe and effective HIV prevention intervention
- Creating an open dialogue with patients to screen for behaviors that may result in HIV acquisition, communicate prevention messages and reinforce safer behaviors
- Communicating to patients in HIV-discordant relationships that PrEP is an available option for the HIV-negative partner

The guidelines, *Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis for the Prevention of HIV in the United States: A Clinical Practice Guideline* (May 2014) and the companion *Clinical Provider's Supplement* (May 2014) are available for download at [PrEP Clinical Guidelines](#) and [PrEP Provider Supplement](#). We trust that the guidelines will give you the information and confidence you need to prescribe and support PrEP use for eligible patients for whom this intervention will prove beneficial.

If you are a prescribing clinician and would like to be added to our referral database for PrEP, please submit your contact information to the Illinois Department of Public Health at: DPH.PrEP4Illinois@illinois.gov

In addition, IDPH has created a website www.PrEP4Illinois.com to assist with any questions that you may have concerning PrEP. While PrEP is covered by both public and private insurance, the website also covers options for paying for PrEP for patients without insurance or if co-pays and deductibles present a barrier accessing PrEP.

Sincerely,



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**ONE PILL.
ONCE A DAY.
Protect against HIV.**