



## How effective is PEP?

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PEP is effective in preventing HIV, but not 100%. The specific effectiveness varies based on how soon after the event you start PEP, and if you complete the full course of medication. Because of this, we recommend that you come back to the clinic after completing your month of PEP to be re-screened for HIV.

## What if I miss a dose?

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It is important to take PEP every day—it is most effective if the drug levels in your body are consistently high. If you do miss a dose, don't panic.

Take the pill as soon as you remember, unless it is already almost time to take the next dose (in that case, do not take a double dose).

## What side effects should I expect?

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PEP is safe, but some people may experience side effects like nausea. These side effects usually go away after a week or two and aren't life-threatening.

## Can I use PEP every time I have sex?

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PEP is not the right choice for people who may be exposed to HIV often—for example, if you often have sex without a

condom—with a partner who is living with HIV. Because PEP is given after a potential exposure to HIV, more drugs and higher doses are needed to block infection than with PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis).

## Can I use PrEP after PEP?

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Yes! For most people we recommend considering continuing on to PrEP after your one month of PEP is over. PrEP is when people at risk for HIV take one daily pill to lower their chances of getting infected with HIV. If you are at ongoing risk for HIV, speak to a provider about starting PrEP after PEP.