

What is PEP?

PEP (post-exposure prophylaxis) is medication to help stop you from getting HIV. You must be HIV negative to take PEP.

You should take PEP if you believe you have been exposed to HIV through an evening such as needle-sharing or sex. PEP must be started as soon as possible to be effective and always within 72 hours of a possible exposure. If you're prescribed PEP, you'll need to take one or two pills every day for one month.

You can access PEP and get screened for STIs at a Sexual & Reproductive Health Walk-In Clinic near you. Quick and low-cost.

No appointment needed.

Walk-in Clinic Hours & Locations

Howard Brown Health Sheridan
4025 N. Sheridan Road, Chicago IL 60613
Monday – Thursdays: Noon – 7 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m. – Noon; 1 – 4 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Howard Brown Health Clark
6500 N Clark Street, Chicago IL 60626
Monday – Thursday: Noon – 7 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m. – Noon; 1 – 4 p.m.

Howard Brown Health 63rd St.
641 W 63rd St, Chicago, IL 60621
Monday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Tuesday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Wednesday: 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Thursday: 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
2nd/4th Saturdays: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

DON'T HAVE INSURANCE? DON'T WORRY.
We serve everyone regardless of ability to pay.

If you are uninsured, we will help you determine if you are eligible for insurance. If you aren't eligible for insurance, our sliding fee scale will help you determine how much you can afford to pay.

Howard Brown Health's Guide to

PEP
(post-exposure prophylaxis)

How effective is PEP?

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?

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?

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?

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?

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.