

WHAT IS PrEP?

Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is a one-pill, once-daily medication that can reduce your risk of acquiring HIV. If you take PrEP as directed, it can prevent HIV from infecting your body.

PrEP must be taken consistently and correctly to maximize its effectiveness. This means taking the correct amount of medication each day at the same time, without missing any doses.

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR PROVIDER

Am I a good candidate for PrEP?

What other options can I use to lower my risk of acquiring HIV?

How effective would PrEP be at reducing my risk of HIV infection?

Are there any side effects?

When can I start PrEP?

Are there ways to help me to pay for PrEP if I need assistance?

Are you willing to prescribe and manage PrEP for me?

How often will I have to be screened for HIV and other STIs?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR PEOPLE WHO CAN BECOME PREGNANT:

Can PrEP help me to conceive safely if my partner has HIV?

Can I take PrEP if I am pregnant or breastfeeding?

ADDITIONAL QUESTION FOR TRANS-IDENTIFIED FOLKS:

Will PrEP interfere with my gender-affirming hormones?



INFORMATION

PrEP
prep@howardbrown.org
To schedule an appointment,
call 773.388.1600

Considering PrEP?



BEFORE YOUR VISIT

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER.

Your doctor can help you to decide if PrEP is a good choice for you. If you want to speak a language other than English during your appointment, let us know when you schedule your appointment. We can have translation available or you can bring someone you trust to translate.

MAKE A HEALTH HISTORY LIST FOR YOUR DOCTOR.

That includes any past illnesses or concerns you have, as well as a list of your current medications (including supplements, herbal medicine, etc.).

BE ON TIME. Try to arrive fifteen minutes before your appointment. If you are later than fifteen minutes, you may have to reschedule. Expect your first appointment to last an hour to an hour and a half.

BRING ALL APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTS. For your first visit make sure to bring the following documents, if applicable:

- ✘ State-issued identification card (ID), driver's license, or passport if applicable.
- ✘ Social security card. If you do not have a social security card, it's okay. We do not deny anyone regardless of immigration status.
- ✘ Health insurance card.

If you do not have insurance, bring last month's paycheck stubs, previous tax returns, or a letter from your employer explaining your employment and income status.

If you don't have any of these documents, please let the call center or front desk know so they can tell you what alternatives you can bring.



DURING YOUR VISIT

CHECK IN AT THE FRONT DESK. You will meet with a medical assistant to start your appointment.

BE CLEAR. Take out your notes and tell your doctor that you are interested in PrEP.

DO NOT BE SHY. Give your doctor all the details about your life that could be important to your health.

KNOW THAT HOWARD BROWN IS A JUDGEMENT-FREE SPACE. If your sex life is a hard topic to talk about, say that to your doctor. It will help to start the conversation.

ASK QUESTIONS. Be sure that you understand what your doctor is telling you.

TAKE NOTES during your visit so that you can remember what your doctor said. After your visit, review your notes or any information provided by your doctor.

During your appointment you may be referred to other Howard Brown services.

If you are uninsured or have trouble with your insurance, our PrEP team is here to help sign you up for PrEP co-pay assistance or other programs.

AFTER YOUR VISIT

CONSIDER YOUR OPTIONS. Your doctor gave you a lot of information. Now it is up to you to make the decision that is right for you. Call your doctor if you have more questions.

ASK to speak to a nurse if your doctor is unavailable.

SCHEDULE TESTING OR FOLLOW-UP APPOINTMENTS AS INSTRUCTED OR NEEDED.

Get your results if you had tests done at your appointment. If you feel comfortable, you may want to discuss this choice with your partners, family, or friends.