



PRESCRIBING HIV PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS (PrEP) IN NEW ZEALAND



1 BEHAVIOURAL ELIGIBILITY

Patient requests PrEP or Patient unsure whether to start PrEP or HIV risk identified during consultation

Refer to HIV risks listed overleaf (Table 1)

HIV risk

Proceed to Step 2

Low or no HIV risk

Discuss condoms & other risk reduction methods

Consider self-funded PrEP

2 CLINICAL ELIGIBILITY

Note: Steps 1,2, 3 & 4 are usually completed at the same visit

Confirm HIV status and review medical history including renal function

HIV Negative
(tested within last 14 days)

Assess clinically for acute HIV infection (e.g. fever, night sweats, fatigue, myalgia, arthralgia, rash, headache, pharyngitis, generalised lymphadenopathy, diarrhoea)

Confirm normal renal function (eGFR > 60 mL/min)

Exclude use of nephrotoxic medication (e.g. high-dose NSAIDs) or medications that interact with PrEP www.hiv-druginteractions.org

Proceed to Step 3

HIV Negative
But recent HIV exposure (within 72 hours)

Immediately seek advice discuss with a local ID physician on the need for 3-drug nPEP. If 2-drug nPEP is recommended, prescribe PrEP **with advice for immediate start.**

Plan to commence PrEP upon completion of nPEP course.

Repeat Step 2

HIV Positive

Not for PrEP

Refer to a local ID or sexual health physician

Making an HIV diagnosis

Refer patient to local DHB infectious diseases or sexual health service. Peer support and counselling available from community organisations www.bodypositive.org.nz and www.nzaf.org.nz

3 OTHER TESTING

Assess for STIs, viral hepatitis and other conditions. See Table 2 (overleaf)

STI testing as per the New Zealand STI Management Guidelines www.nzshs.org/guidelines

Hepatitis B serology (HBsAg, Anti-HBs, Anti-HBc) Vaccinate if not immune If HBsAg+ve, refer to gastroenterologist or ID physician as per local pathway

Hepatitis C serology (anti-HCV; followed by HCV RNA if anti-HCV +ve) If HCV RNA+ve, then treat. www.hepatitisfoundation.org.nz

Proceed to Step 4

4 PRESCRIBING PrEP

Daily continuous PrEP

Suitable for anyone with an ongoing risk of HIV.

1 pill daily of tenofovir/emtricitabine. Start 7 days before HIV risk.

Proceed to Step 5

OR

Event driven PrEP (2-1-1 method)

Suitable **only** for cis-gender men who have sex with men whose HIV risk is from anal sex rather than injecting drug use. For info on effectiveness, see full ASHM guidelines.

Tenofovir/Emtricitabine:

- 2 pills at least 2h before sex (up to 24h before sex)
 - 1 pill 24h later
 - 1 pill 48h after first dose
- If repeated sexual activity, then continue with 1 pill daily until 48h after last sexual contact.

Proceed to Step 5

5 ONGOING MONITORING

Ongoing monitoring
See Table 2 (overleaf)

&

Patient education
Discuss how PrEP works, frequency, missed dose protocol, continued condom use. See Box 1 (overleaf)

BOX 1: PATIENT EDUCATION

- Discuss the role of condoms to prevent HIV and STIs, and emphasize role of regular STI testing.
- Discuss safer injecting practices, if applicable.
- Discuss PrEP adherence at every visit.
- Ongoing monitoring every 3 months is required, also for event driven PrEP.
- Discuss potential side effects, early (e.g. headache, nausea) and longer term (e.g. renal toxicity, lowered bone density).
- Ask about nephrotoxic medications, eg NSAIDs.
- **STOPPING PrEP:**
 - Only cis-gender men who have sex with men (MSM) taking daily or on-demand PrEP can stop 48 hours after last exposure.
 - Non-MSM patients on daily PrEP should continue PrEP for 28 days after last exposure.
 - Patients who stop PrEP need a plan to re-start PrEP if their HIV risk increases again.

TABLE 1: HIV RISK

Men who have sex with men (MSM)	Trans & gender diverse people	Heterosexual people	People who inject drugs
High risk of HIV and eligible for funded PrEP 1. Likely to have multiple events of CLAI in the next 3 months; And having any one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least one episode of receptive CLAI with one or more casual male partners in the last 3 months; Rectal gonorrhoea, rectal chlamydia or infectious syphilis diagnosis during the last 3 months; Methamphetamine use in the last 3 months OR 2. CLI with a regular HIV+ partner who is not on treatment and/or has a detectable viral load.		High risk of HIV and eligible for funded PrEP CLI with a regular HIV+ partner who is not on treatment and/or has a detectable viral load.	
Not eligible for funded PrEP; could consider self-funded PrEP Insertive CLAI with any casual male partner (in last 3 months or expected in next 3 months) Travelling to a high-HIV prevalence country and anticipates risk		Not eligible for funded PrEP; could consider self-funded PrEP Receptive CLI with any casual MSM partner (in last 3 months or expected in next 3 months) Travelling to a high-HIV prevalence country and anticipates risk	Not eligible for funded PrEP; could consider self-funded PrEP Shared injecting equipment with an HIV+ individual or with MSM of unknown HIV status (in last 3 months or expected in next 3 months)

CLI: Condomless intercourse; **MSM:** Men who have sex with men; **cis men:** assigned male at birth; **CLAI:** condomless anal intercourse

Notes on prescribing PrEP:

- Prescribe: Tenofovir 300mg + Emtricitabine 200mg (coformulated); 1 tablet daily for 90 days.
- Patient to be advised to commence PrEP within 14 days of negative HIV test. If there is no recent HIV test result, PrEP can be prescribed on the same day as an HIV test and patient advised to only start PrEP once informed the test is negative
- Apply for special authority, search for HIV prophylaxis on: <https://www.pharmac.govt.nz>
- Patients not eligible for PHARMAC funded PrEP can self-fund from a NZ pharmacy or can self import PrEP under the self importation scheme: www.endinghiv.org.nz/stay-safe/prep

TABLE 2: LABORATORY EVALUATION AND CLINICAL FOLLOW-UP OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE PRESCRIBED PrEP

Test	Baseline (Week 0)	About day 30 after initiating PrEP (optional but recommended in some jurisdictions)	90 days after initiating PrEP	Every subsequent 90 days on PrEP	Other frequency
HIV testing and assessment for signs or symptoms of acute infection	Y	Y Retest HIV if any doubt about window period for baseline HIV test. Can be done by giving client a lab form to do this and does not require a visit	Y	Y	N
Full blood count	Y	N	N	N	N
Phosphate	Y	N	N	N	Y Every 12 months
Urine analysis	Y	N	N	N	N
Assess side-effects	N	Y	Y	Y	N
Hepatitis A serology. Vaccinate if non-immune.	Y	N	N	N	N
Hepatitis B serology. Vaccinate if non-immune.	Y	N	Y (if not immune)	Y (if not immune)	Y If patient required hep B vaccine at baseline, confirm immune response to vaccination 1 month after last vaccine dose
Hepatitis C serology	Y	N	N	N	Y Every 12 months, or more frequently if ongoing risk e.g. non-sterile injecting drug use and MSM with sexual practices that predispose to anal trauma
Liver function tests	Y	N	N	N	Y Every 6 months
STI (i.e. syphilis, gonorrhoea, chlamydia) as per www.nzshs.org/guidelines	Y	N	Y	Y	N
eGFR at 3 months and then every 6 months	Y	N	Y	N	Y At least every 6 months or according to risk of chronic kidney disease
Urine protein:creatinine ratio (PCR) baseline	Y	N	Y	N	Y At least every 6 months
Pregnancy test (for people who may become pregnant)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N

Y: yes; N: no; eGFR: estimated glomerular filtration rate; STI: sexually transmissible infection; MSM: men who have sex with men

* <http://www.sti.guidelines.org.au/>