

# ALLIANCE HEALTH PROJECT PREP NAVIGATION PROTOCOLS

UCSF CBA Partnership  
<https://cba.ucsf.edu/>

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## **Alliance Health Project PrEP Navigation Eligibility/Protocols**

Alliance Health Project PrEP Navigation program works from the belief that PrEP is more than just a pill you take once a day, but more of an intervention strategy that helps with your overall sexual wellbeing. Our PrEP services reflect the true belief with true client focused counseling. Counseling that challenges the client to look at their own sexual risk behaviors in a realistic way. Giving the highest possible chance of success means laying out realistic expectations about the PrEP process. Arming them with all the information we have so clients can come to their own conclusion about PrEP and how it fits into their lives.

### **WHAT is PrEP ?**

PrEP is a once-daily pill for people who are HIV negative that is more than 90 percent effective in stopping sexual transmission of HIV, and 70 percent for injection drug use. Known by the brand name Truvada®, the FDA approved its use for PrEP in 2012. Truvada is a combination of two HIV medications (Tenofovir and Emtricitabine). These medicines work by blocking important pathways that HIV uses to set up an infection. If the client takes PrEP daily, the presence of the medicine in the client's bloodstream can stop HIV from taking hold of (CD4) cells and spreading in the body. If the client does not take PrEP every day, there may not be enough medicine in the bloodstream to block the virus. PrEP should only be prescribed by a health care provider and must be taken as directed to work. PrEP is covered by Medi-Cal and most commercial insurance. Gilead, the manufacturer, offers patient assistance programs to help low-income people afford PrEP.

### **How well does PrEP Work ?**

Studies have shown consistent PrEP use reduces the risk of getting HIV from sex by more than 90 percent. Among people who inject drugs, PrEP reduces the risk of getting HIV by more than 70 percent. The medication interferes with HIV's ability to copy itself in the body after being exposed to HIV. This prevents it from establishing an infection and causing illness and progression to AIDS. Additional prevention strategies are needed to reduce STD risk, PrEP does NOT prevent other STDs. PrEP is NOT a vaccine.

### **Is PrEP SAFE ?**

Some people in clinical studies of PrEP had early side effects such as an upset stomach or loss of appetite, these symptoms were mild and usually went away within the first month and some people also have had mild headaches, No serious side effects were observed. Clients who start PrEP should tell their healthcare provider if these or other symptoms become severe or do not go away within the two weeks.

## **PrEP Access**

The cost of PrEP is covered by many health insurance plans, and commercial medication assistance program provides free PrEP to people with limited income and no insurance to cover PrEP care. If eligible, the Gilead Advancing Access co-pay coupon card may help save on co-pay fees. It is not available if client is enrolled in any state- or federally-funded prescription drug program, such as Medicare Part D and Medicaid.

## **PrEP Eligibility**

PrEP is not for everyone. Federal guidelines recommend PrEP for people who are HIV-negative and at very high risk for HIV infection. This includes anyone who is in an ongoing relationship with an HIV-positive partner; gay or bisexual man who has had anal sex without a condom; who is not in a mutually monogamous relationship with a partner and recently tested HIV-negative; has been diagnosed with a sexually transmitted infection within the past 6 months; PrEP is for cis and transgender, men and women with ongoing substantial risk of HIV infection.

## **PrEP Navigator**

Client centered PrEP counseling, focuses on the client's total sexual wellbeing and meeting clients where they are sexually. Determining insurance coverage needs and finding the best coverage possible for the client. Discussing realistic expectations for their PrEP adherence and assisting clients to explore if PrEP is the right fit for them. PrEP counseling involves the client making their own conclusion about PrEP and how increase chances to be successful. Conversations which help clients identify their own support needs and support networks can lead to increased adherence and a healthy experience on PrEP.

## **Alliance Health Project's PrEP Navigation Services Availability**

Alliance Health Project PrEP navigation services are available to: MSM of color, MSM less than 26 years of age ( limited to age 12) ; transgendered men and women who has sex with men, IDU

There are three points of entry to PrEP in our program

### **1. Referral from HIV counseling and testing**

HIV/STD testing clients fill out a Client Information Form (CIF). There are three questions on the CIF referring to PrEP to prompt conversation about PrEP between client and counselor:

\*Have you heard of HIV negative people taking HIV medications to reduce their chances of getting HIV infection? (Also known as PrEP)

\*In the past 12 months, have you ever taken PrEP to reduce your chances of getting HIV?

\*Are you currently taking PrEP medication to reduce your chances of getting HIV?

Counselors will review the client's answers to PrEP questions as well as the client's demographic and HIV information. During PrEP discussion, counselors inform clients of our PrEP Navigation services. Clients who meet eligibility criteria and are interested in learning more about PrEP may speak with our PrEP navigator while waiting for their HIV test results. If clients would rather speak with the navigator another time, counselors should:

- A. Inform client PrEP navigator will contact them using the information on our CIF/client consent form.
- B. Give client the PrEP navigator card to call from Tuesday-Friday 11-4:30pm.
- C. Mark CIF box indicating PrEP referral for the navigator

If the client is prepared to speak with the PrEP Navigator, the counselor will inform the PrEP navigator a client has questions about PrEP while their client is in the lab to give specimens for their HIV/STD tests. The PrEP navigator will either join the client while they are waiting for the test results, or join them post-test determined after consulting with the client's counselor.

## **2. Mobile HIV Testing PrEP referrals**

HIV test clients during mobile shifts interested in PrEP can speak with PrEP navigators scheduled on the mobile shift on Saturday 1-3:30pm in Cast PrEP navigator to use the provided information to contact them at a later date. The PrEP navigator should contact them by the next week to set an appointment.

## **3. STD positive client referrals**

Client's testing STD positive are given a referral to speak with our PrEP navigator to discuss their HIV risk and if PrEP is a good fit for them. AHP has found some clients who may have previously declined PrEP Navigation services, reconsider after a positive STD result.

## **PrEP Sessions**

### **A PrEP Session involves:**

#### **First impressions**

It is important for PrEP navigators to consider a client's first impression starts when they first enter the program at reception, this is when a client's PrEP session truly begins. Coordinating with front desk staff and program managers to insure best practices for PrEP navigation client experiences.

- A. Greet client with a warm greeting and smile, this help sets the tone for the session and lay your intention for the client and helps client feel comfortable.
- B. The client's experience with the PrEP navigator differs from a typical HIV/STD client experience due to the amount of documentation requiredWhen taking the client in the

room try to walk with the client, walking with the client give of equal footing and helps put the client at ease.

C. Open the session with open ended questions, Starting the session like this allows the client to take lead and you follow, it's important for the client to take the lead in the session and we as navigators act as support because they have to decide what's best for them. It's our role to ask question and point out gap they may not see. ,

So what brings you in?

What do you already know about PrEP?

### **Client Assessment**

Assessing someone eligibility for PrEP includes having a conversation about what kind of sex the client is having. You want to start the session in a warm friendly professional manner and introduce yourself. Start by asking the client what their interest in PrEP, this will help the client become more forthcoming with the reasons why they feel the need for PrEP. The conversation should be focused on how PrEP will change his their currant safe sex practices and if PrEP can be an asset, informing the client of the benefits of PrEP can help the client realize their own level of risk. It's only after a client has recognized their own risk can they make an informed decision about getting on PrEP. The goal of the PrEP navigator is to help client come to their own conclusions if PrEP is the right fit for them.

### **PrEP packet Paperwork**

The client will complete the PrEP folder information, Day of Visit and intake. Basic information form, PrEP clients bill of rights, PrEP consent form

### **Making a connection**

When seeing clients it is important to make a human connection to make the client feel comfortable to tell you their story. The PrEP Navigation session is a short face to face meeting. Building trust and rapport in the crucial first minutes set the tone for the rest of the session. Clients will follow your lead, meaning if you feel comfortable and confidant then your client will too. Setting the tone and the pace is one part of the session that you control and can use as a tool to dig deeper in the client's reasons for wanting to start PrEP.

### **Open-Ended Questions**

Queries not easily answered with a "yes" or "no" response. Queries that begin with "what," "how," "where," and "when" invite further disclosure, build rapport and trust, and help to explore how emotional, cultural, economic, and social factors play a role in the client's HIV risk.

Explore current knowledge and awareness around PrEP: Ask Client about their knowledge about PrEP with open-ended questions. This will help guide the conversation and allows the client to speak freely in answering questions. Asking open-ended questions allow the client to guide the session. Suggested questions: Why are you interested in PrEP?; What do you know

about PrEP so far? These allow for more free flowing dialogue. Letting the client talk freely about their sexual practices can help the client determine if PrEP is a good fit for them. Providing the client with information and support will help them make an informed decision about their sexual health needs.

### **Curiosity/Empathy**

Expressing genuine interest in a client's circumstances could invite further disclosure. Empathize with clients.

### **Attending**

Communicating attentiveness through frequent and varied eye contact, facial expressions, body language, and other forms of non-verbal communication, including sitting in a relaxed posture, leaning forward occasionally, and using natural hand and arm movements that are responsive and encouraging.

### **Summarizing**

Highlighting the most important aspects of the session or part of the session for the client. Review their risk reduction plan going forward.

### **Cultural Humility Focus**

Cultural humility is and should be a key Part to PrEP navigation, this approach is meant to help the PrEP navigator meet the client where they are, without judgment. With its unique focus on the client's own life perspective and expertise, cultural humility encourages the PrEP navigator to honor their client's story. Cultural humility engages in self-reflection about the cultural elements all parties bring to the table.

**A. Avoid making assumptions.** Instead of assuming that you know what the client wants or needs, let the client tell you.

**B. Be attuned to the client's moods and feelings.** Pay attention to the interaction and don't ask prying questions. Let clients lead the discussion.

**C. Remember that the client knows best.** Only the client can tell their story for wanting PrEP. They are the leaders of their sexual path. Often as providers can be tempted to tell clients what's best for them. However, it's our job to provide information and allow the client to make his or her own informed decisions.

### **Stigma**

The use of PrEP is seen as controversial by some organizations. In order to prevent any negative social consequences from PrEP use, PrEP counseling should address how the client's use of PrEP might impact their housing, employment, friends, and family. When a problem is identified, the PrEP navigator should work on a feasible plan with the client to address it. This could involve



the use of pill boxes, or other measures to discretely incorporate the use of PrEP in their daily lives.

## **Adherence**

The importance of adherence to obtain the maximum PrEP efficacy is discussed. An adherence strategy is identified and recorded for the client. An example of an adherence strategy to suggest might include: linking the dose with a daily activity that occurs every day, even when traveling or staying out late, such as brushing teeth or hair, a morning shower, or simply waking up. In general, people using daily medications in the morning tend to be more successful than dosing occurring later in the day. If people forget a dose, they should take the dose when they remember if the same day. If they do not recall whether they have taken a dose on a given day, they should take a dose.

## **Adherence Measure**

Adherence will be measured using by asking the client “How many doses have you missed within the last 7 days?” with responses of 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. any reported missed doses should be addresses in the adherence counseling.

## **Follow Up Phone Calls**

Initial call within a week after intake; 3 months; 6 months. A phone call to check in about their experience obtaining the medication, side effects, and answer any additional questions.

## **Retention to PrEP**

All clients are encouraged to actively participate in their care. AHP will assist clients in adherence efforts with additional follow up calls scheduled up to 6 months at the clients request, but it is ultimately the responsibility of the client to maintain their own PrEP use. We will assist clients to remove identified barriers.

## **Client’s Insurance**

If the client is uninsured discuss insurance options based on income and help clients plan for next steps. If the client makes less than or equal to \$16, 105 annually they may qualify for Medi-Cal, and can find more information at <http://www.coveredca.com/apply/>. If the client makes more than that amount, they may qualify for assistance through a Covered CA insurance plan. They can find more information at <http://www.coveredca.com/apply/>. If the client is uninsured and undocumented, they may qualify for a Healthy San Francisco Plan. They can find more information at <http://healthysanfrancisco.org/visitors/how-do-i-apply/>. Many insured Clients are also eligible for the Gilead copay card <https://www.gileadadvancingaccess.com/copay-coupon-cardnk>

### ***If the client is insured with private insurance***

#### ***Discuss ability to be seen at Ward 86 but note potential out of pocket costs for labs***

Discuss clinics that would be able to see them with current insurance

Ward 86 (and the whole San Francisco Health Network) can largely only see folks with Medi-Cal and Healthy San Francisco.

### **Nurx**

Nurx can help clients get access to PrEP, Nurx is an online prescription service that streamlines the process of accessing PrEP by delivering it to your door in just 24 hours—or if you're in San Francisco, two hours. <https://www.nurx.com/> **City Clinic and Strut** are great referral options because they accommodate the vast -majority of clients regardless of insurance (private, public, uninsured, etc.)

*City Clinic: PrEP Team at 415-487-5518*

*Strut (formerly Magnet): Call Felipe Flores at 415-581-1600 Please note that Strut only sees male-identified patients*

*Many local Planned Parenthood offices are also a good choice for those with private insurance*

*San Francisco Office: 415-821-1282*

*Planned Parenthood can see patients with Medi-Cal and most common insurance plans. For individuals with insurance plans they do not accept or who are uninsured, Planned Parenthood will provide services on a sliding fee basis and will apply for medication assistance on behalf of the patient*

Consider making an appointment with Ward 86's Eligibility Office city clinic PrEP navigations team to help the client sort through options they may be beyond your scope.

### **Uninsured clients**

To assist clients applying for insurance, first choose a health insurance plan compatible with the client's income (client's provide proof of income in the form of paystubs from work or a letter from any governmental or state assistants) when this is provided. Depending on client's income, client can enroll in the Gilead copay program after enrolling in an insurance plan.

Uninsured clients can also attempt to use the Gilead Advancing Access program, when eligible, as a last result. The Gilead Advancing Access program may help clients for a temporarily while clients acquire their own insurance. Clients are allowed 3 months to 6 months intervals of coverage while trying to apply for insurance. Uninsured individuals making less than \$60,300/annually are eligible.

## **Documents Needed For Advancing Access Applications**

Government ID, Proof of income document – any one of the following: 2 most recent pay stubs per job; tax return; W-2.

*Clients without the above documents could provide a notarized letter stating their income and listing monthly expenses and savings from the past 12 month (e.g. sex-workers, undocumented etc.).*

## **Coverage for Uninsured clients**

Gilead Advancing Access Program for Truvada Contact: **1-800-226-2056 Fax: 1-800-216-6857** . Temporary full cost coverage for Truvada; approval given in 3 month increments with a 6 month term limit (additional terms assessed on a case-by-case basis). Application must be faxed in with proof of income and proof of Identity documents attached Printable application available on Gilead's website:  
<https://www.gileadadvancingaccess.com/financialsupport/uninsured>

Proof of identity required.

Additional document required: Income verification or viable proof of income documents accepted: W-2, tax return, 2 most recent pay stubs, letter from employer. No other sources for health insurance or coverage of \$60,300 annually, individual income, and client must have U.S. address; no P.O. Box accepted.

*Clients without the above documents could provide a notarized letter stating their income and listing monthly expenses and savings from the past 12 month (e.g. sex-workers, undocumented etc.).*

Gilead will send eligibility determination via fax within 2 business days. When approved, Gilead will send the provider or patient membership information depending on the selection on the application. PrEP navigators will inform clients of their membership information record to verify date of last negative HIV test. Their prescription for PrEP is re-evaluated for coverage on a regular basis (3 months).

**NOTE:** If client uses any type of HSA/FSA account, they are not eligible for **reimbursements** through the copay card.

## **Medi-cal Requirement**

This is a good option for someone who is uninsured and needs benefits immediately but there are income requirements. Additional documents needed for Medi-cal: Passport / Birth Certificate / Proof of Residence / Credit card/Bank statement / Telephone bill or utility bill / Lease/rental agreement • Affidavit from landlord (notarized letter counts) / U.S. State ID

## Medi-Cal Application Process

Full coverage of medical services for residents making less than \$16,642.80/annually (2017) / Create a My Benefits account at <http://mybenefitscaliwin.org> follow these steps:

1. Activate the account by following the link sent to the client's email address
2. Log in to website account and select "Apply for Benefits".
3. Select "Insurance Affordability Program" with Medi-Cal option.
4. Complete application (\*select Submit Partial Application Now when asked half-way through if you'd like to continue or submit partial application now).
5. Attach scanned documents for the categories required on the last page of the application.
6. After submitting application, continue to monitor your email for updates on the status of your application – It may take upwards of 45 days to fully process your application.
7. Patient will receive faster turnaround time if they apply in person at their county Medi-Cal offices.

Applying for Medi-cal can be a complicated application process. ([www.benefitsapplication.com](http://www.benefitsapplication.com)) you and the client should walk through it together. When the application is done you can submit the forms online or refer the client to city clinic or any PrEP provider of their choice. You can also apply for Healthy San Francisco. ([www.healthysanfrancisco.org](http://www.healthysanfrancisco.org))

The Gilead co pay program or Advancing Access program is not available to clients if they are enrolled in any state- or federally-funded prescription drug program, such as **Medicare Part D and Medicaid**. Client's also will not qualify if they are in the **Medicare Part D prescription coverage gap** (the "donut hole").

This site assist to enroll, activate, or replace co-pay coupon cards for clients. If you would like to speak to someone directly, please call **1-877-505-6986**. When enrolling a client you will have to answer a few questions to confirm you are eligible for the program. This program covers a set amount in co-pays per year, depending on the Gilead product. See total amounts for each product in the Enrollment section. Some restrictions apply. Link <https://www.gileadadvancingaccess.com/copay-coupon-cardnk>:

City Clinic and Strut are great referral options because they can see the vast -majority of clients regardless of insurance (private, public, uninsured, etc.) City Clinic: Call their PrEP Navigator at 415-487-5518/Strut (formerly Magnet)

## Insured clients

Clients who have insurance may want to use their own pcp (primary care Physician) if they choose to do so. They can also apply for the Gilead co pay program as long as the insurance they have can work with Gilead sciences co pay program

## **Gilead Co-pay Program for Truvada**

Physical cards can be activated through [www.gileadcopay.com](http://www.gileadcopay.com) or 1-877-505-6986/ \$7500 per year towards the cost of Truvada / People must have private insurance / This program does not cover individuals with Medicaid, Medicare, VA, or Tricare / No income requirement / Cards are valid for 12 active prescription refills/ Works with most pharmacies, but reimburses when pharmacies don't accept the card. Some mail-order pharmacies also don't accept co-pay cards / Not directly accepted at Kaiser (must do reimbursement claim)

## **Patient Access Network (PAN) Co-pay Program**

[www.panfoundation.org/fundingapplication/welcome.php](http://www.panfoundation.org/fundingapplication/welcome.php) or 1-866-316-PANF / \$4,000 per year – may reapply, but program funding will dictate response. it covers deductibles and co-insurance and is designed for those whose out-of-pocket costs are not fully covered by the Gilead program.

Clients must have health insurance and the insurance has to deem the medication eligible for coverage. Most pharmacies should be able to bill PAN directly. Online application process:

1. Select "**Apply Online**"
2. When prompted select "**HIV Treatment and Prevention**" from the drop down Disease Fund menu.
3. Select "**Commercial**" (or **Medicare**) for your insurance, and "**Truvada**" for the medication type.

The rest of the application takes about 5-10min and client will receive a preliminary eligibility result instantly. The PAN foundation will still need a couple hours to finish processing the application but will send both the client and primary provider (us in this case) further info on how to access the funding once they have finished processing the application. PAN will provide instant approval and provide printable benefits information that the client may use immediately at the pharmacy. This Program can be little challenging because it as a very short window of operation

## **Patient Advocate Foundation (PAF) Co-Pay relief program**

We are accepting applications for new and renewal patients. If your application for assistance is approved you can begin receiving funding immediately.

### **Maximum Award Level: \$7,500 Per Year / Eligibility Criteria**

Client should have insurance which covers PrEP.

Prescribed Truvada for prevention of HIV (PrEP).

Client must reside and receive treatment in the United States.

Client's income must fall below 400% of the Federal Poverty Guideline (FPG) with consideration of the Cost of Living Index (COLI) and the number in the household. ♣ PAF will provide instant approval and provide printable benefits information that the client may use immediately at the pharmacy. <https://www.copays.org/diseases/hiv-aids-and-prevention>

## **Nurx**

Nurx can help clients get access to PrEP online , Nurx is an on line prescription service that streamlines the process of getting PrEP by delivering it to your door in just 24 hours—or if you're in San Francisco, two hours. 1800-321- NURX

*Many local Planned Parenthood offices are also a good choice for those with private insurance  
San Francisco Office: 415-821-1282*

*Planned Parenthood can see patients with Medi-Cal and most common insurance plans. For individuals with insurance plans they do not accept or who are uninsured, Planned Parenthood will provide services on a sliding fee basis and will apply for medication assistance on behalf of the patient*

## **Clients insured by Kaiser**

Kaiser does not work with third party co-pay programs and does everything in house. Kaiser clients can receive limited assistance with **Kaiser Permanente medical financial assistance application process only.**

## **Who's Eligible for Kaiser Medical Financial Assistance (KMFA)?**

Eligibility is based on financial need. In general, patients whose household income is at or below 200 percent, and in some regions up to 400 percent, of the federal poverty guidelines are eligible for the MFA program. Patients who are experiencing high medical expenses as compared to their income may be eligible under high medical expenses criteria, regardless of household income.

The KMFA program covers emergency and medically necessary health care services, pharmacy services and products, and medical supplies provided at Kaiser Permanente. Kaiser Permanente outpatient pharmacies, or by Kaiser Permanente providers. Services that are not considered emergent or medically necessary as determined by a Kaiser Permanente provider include, cosmetic surgery or services, infertility treatments, retail medical supplies, surrogacy services, and services related to third party liability, or workers' compensation cases.

## **Clients 12-24 who need PrEP immediately and or homeless**

San Francisco has set up an emergency youth fund to help disadvantaged youth access PrEP. Clients aged 18 to 24 years who prefer youth-centric atmosphere can also use these services:

Refer clients ages 12-24 who need immediate PrEP to the Huckleberry Youth Health Center at 415.386.9398. Clients in this age group can also be seen at the Larkin Street Youth Clinic if the Health Right 360 (either way, feel free to call Miranda Nordell! Cell phone: 415-985-7737 expert in youth and PrEP)

## **Online Specific Service**

### **PrEP-AP: PrEP Assistance Program (PrEP-AP) Benefits**

The PrEP-AP will only provide assistance with PrEP-related medical costs, and all other medication on the PrEP-AP formulary for the prevention of HIV and treatment of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) **Please Note:** Uninsured clients must receive PrEP-related medical services at approved locations within OA's PrEP-AP Provider Network.

### **Insured Clients**

Clients with private insurance are not eligible to enroll in the PrEP-AP until spring 2018. Clients with private health insurance will be eligible for PrEP medication co-payment assistance of \$4,800 per calendar year through Gilead's Co-Payment Assistance Program. After this threshold has been met, the PrEP-AP will provide wrap-around coverage for any remaining PrEP medication co-payments for the remainder of calendar the year. Insured clients can enroll in Gilead's Co-Payment Assistance Program online or through an authorized ADAP Enrollment Site. The PrEP-AP will also provide assistance with PrEP-related medical out-of-pockets costs for insured clients and all other medication on the PrEP-AP formulary for the prevention of HIV and treatment of STIs.

### **Medicare Clients**

Clients with Medicare are not eligible to enroll in the PrEP-AP until spring 2018. Clients with prescription drug coverage through Medicare are not eligible for assistance from Gilead, but are eligible to enroll in the PrEP-AP for co-payment assistance for all medication on the PrEP-AP formulary, including Truvada®.

Medicare clients without prescription drug coverage are eligible to enroll in the Gilead Patient Assistance Program to receive Truvada® free of charge. The PrEP-AP will provide assistance for all other medications on the PrEP-AP formulary.

**Please Note:** All Medicare clients with outpatient coverage through Medicare will be eligible to receive assistance with PrEP-related medical out-of-pocket costs.

## **PrEP-AP Medical-Out-Of-Pocket Benefit**

Eligible clients may have their PrEP-related medical out-of-pocket costs paid for by the PrEP-AP. Clients must maintain program eligibility in order to qualify for this benefit. Uninsured clients must receive services at approved locations within the PrEP-AP Provider Network and must enroll in the PrEP-AP prior to seeing a contracted provider. Please reference PrEP-AP Enrollment Sites and Services Map to find contracted clinical providers in the PrEP-AP Provider Network and PrEP-AP Enrollment Sites.

### **Eligibility Criteria Services covered under the medical out-of-pocket benefit:**

- New/established patient office visit for assessment of PrEP
- HIV Testing
- STI Testing
- Pregnancy Testing
- Renal Function Testing Hepatitis A Screening
- Hepatitis B Screening
- Hepatitis C Screening

All eligible PrEP-AP clients will receive a client ID card from the PrEP-AP's Medical Benefits Manager; Pool Administrator's Inc. (PAI). This ID card must be presented during your PrEP-related medical visit to ensure you are not charged at the point of service

- Be a resident of California;
- Have a negative HIV/AIDS test result (dated within 6 months of the PrEP-AP application);
- Be at least 18 years old;
- Have an annual Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) that does not exceed 500% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) based on family size and household income;
- Not be fully covered by Medi-Cal or other third party payers; and
- Be enrolled in the manufacturer's assistance program (if eligible)

**How to Apply:** Applicants must first go to an ADAP Enrollment Site that is authorized to perform PrEP-AP enrollment. Uninsured applicants who do not have a current prescription for PrEP and/or are not in the manufacturer's assistance program for PrEP must be clinically assessed for PrEP eligibility and will be referred to a contracted clinical provider in the PrEP-AP Provider Network by an enrollment worker. Please use the PrEP-AP Enrollment Sites and Services Map to ensure that both a contracted clinical provider in the PrEP-AP Provider Network and an ADAP Enrollment Site that is authorized to perform PrEP-AP enrollment are within driving distance.

**Please Note:** Applicants must see an enrollment worker and enroll in the PrEP-AP before seeing a contracted clinical provider for any PrEP-related medical services.



## **Initiating Prep**

If the client is ready to start PrEP after initial discussion and their insurance is one that covers PrEP have the client fill out an (AHP) PrEP packet and refer them to the clinic or provider of their choice. Make a plan to follow up with client in 1 to 2 weeks. The goal is to see all clients for an initial intake within one week and to keep clients engaged in the process.

## **Lab Tests**

A comprehensive medical panel, Hepatitis B AG, Hepatitis C AB, and rapid HIV/RNA will be collected for their initial evaluation. If the client has been vaccinated or is in the process of vaccinating for Hep B or has a low risk of having an undiagnosed chronic HBV, the hepatitis B AG may be pending. Renal and liver function tests should indicate normal range unless explained by a known health condition that is not contraindicated.

## **Provider PrEP Assessment**

The final assessment of the appropriateness for PrEP will be made by an NP/MD. The determination will be based on:

1. PrEP Eligibility
2. Health History
3. Medications
4. Laboratory results

Clients who are determined ineligible due to medical conditions may be referred to a Primary Care Provider for PrEP management.

### *Special Considerations:*

- 1) Injection drug users. Oral TDF PrEP was effective for prevention of HIV acquisition among IDUs in Thailand, having limited access to clean needles. Oral FTC/TDF has not been specifically evaluated, but is expected to be at least as effective as oral TDF PrEP. Whether oral FTC/TDF PrEP provides additional benefit to ready access to clean needles is not known. PrEP may be provided to IDUs along with a renewable supply of clean needles.

## **Post Exposure Prophylaxis( PEP)**

Clients reporting recent high risk exposure to HIV in the last 72 hours should follow the PEP protocol. Clients will be given priority enrollment into the PrEP Health Program once completing PEP to ensure continuity of treatment.

## **Discontinuing PrEP**

Clients may discontinue PrEP medication for several reasons, including personal choice, changed life situations resulting in lowered risk of HIV acquisition, intolerable toxicities, chronic non adherence to the prescribed dosing regimen despite efforts to improve daily pill-taking, or acquisition of HIV infection. Upon discontinuation for any reason, the following should be documented in the health record: HIV status at the time of discontinuation Reason for PrEP discontinuation recent medication adherence and reported sexual risk behavior. Any person who wishes to resume taking PrEP medications after having stopped should undergo all the same pre-prescription evaluation as a person being newly prescribed PrEP. In addition, a frank discussion should clarify the changed circumstances since discontinuing medication that indicate the need to resume medication, and the commitment to, take it,

## **Client Concerns**

Key tips and recommendations to addressing a client's concerns about PrEP at an appointment and on follow ups is to routinely discuss condom use and other harm reduction strategies, which, in conjunction with PrEP medication, can further reduce the risk of HIV infection, even if a person is exposed to resistant strains of HIV. Promote combination HIV prevention strategies to clients in a non-judgmental and evidence-based fashion.

But like other prevention methods, it does not provide 100% protection. In addition to taking PrEP daily, an important way to reduce the risk of getting HIV is to use condoms as often as possible for anal or vaginal sex. Condoms provide protection against any strain of HIV, including multidrug resistant strains.