

PrEP Scripts: Introducing and Discussing PrEP with Patients

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Before Seeing the Provider

You can set the scene for PrEP by discussing HIV testing and HIV prevention medication at registration or while a patient is having their vital signs taken.

This could look like:

- “We routinely test all of our patients for HIV and STIs, so we are going to order that along with the other tests today.”
 - “In addition, did you know there are medications that can prevent HIV? If you’re interested, you can talk to your clinician about this.”
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Provider Visit

PrEP should be further discussed during the provider visit. This might look like:

- First, I like to test all my patients for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. Do you have any concerns about that?”
- “Did you know that there are medications that can prevent HIV up to 100% of the time? You can take a pill every day, or just when you need it*, and there is even an injectable medication if you don’t like pills. Would you like to know more about that?”
 - *On-demand PrEP has only been tested for HIV prevention among cisgender men who have sex with men

If a patient is not interested that day, but they could be a candidate for PrEP, you can offer:

- “I’d also like to give you information about PrEP; I think it might be able to help you.”

Patients might wonder why they would want to take PrEP. It is important to not use risk-based language but to instead use a sex-positive framework. This could look like:

- “PrEP is for people who want to reduce their anxiety about getting HIV and take control of their sexual health.”
- Key words here could be freedom, control, and pleasure.

If a patient is interested in PrEP, here are some key points to share:

- PrEP is a medication that protects all people from getting HIV.
 - You can take it as a pill or as an injection.
 - When taken as prescribed, PrEP reduces the risk of getting HIV from sex and from injection drug use.
 - PrEP is an HIV prevention tool that you, not your partner, control.
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