

Talking to Clients About PrEP

1) Offer PrEP to **every** HIV neg client in the STD Clinic, **particularly those with Syphilis and/or rectal GC.**

Start with a question: **“What have you heard about PrEP?”**

Make sure every client knows these facts about PrEP:

- PrEP is a once-a-day pill that can protect you from getting HIV
- It is nearly 100% effective at reducing your chances of getting infected with HIV from sex, even without using condoms. It’s a little less effective in preventing HIV from sharing equipment to inject drugs or hormones. (We still recommend condoms for protection against other STDs)
- PrEP is for HIV-negative cismen, ciswomen, transmen, transwomen, and non-binary folks
- You can start, stop, and restart taking PrEP at anytime — but it only provides protection when taken as directed
- If payment or insurance is a problem, **PrEP is FREE** through the Illinois Department of Health and other payment programs (Remember, we know it’s free, but most clients don’t)

NOTE: Many clients will have seen commercials about PrEP, others may have friends that take PrEP, & others may not have heard about it at all. Using an open-ended question like **“What have you heard about PrEP?”** will tell you what your client already knows. If needed, you can then fill in the blanks, correct misinformation, or start from scratch, depending on what your client needs. There’s no need to start from the beginning with every client!

2) Turn it back to your client and follow up with:

“Since you’ve been diagnosed with (STD), and we know that you can also get HIV the same way you got this infection...

What do you think about taking PrEP to reduce your chances of getting HIV?” or

How would things be different for you if you didn’t have to worry about HIV?”

3) If the client shows any interest at all, follow up with:

“How do you think it could fit into your life?”

“What do you think about going ahead and enrolling in PrEP today?”

4) If the client is interested in starting PrEP, do these things before the client leaves:

- ⇒ **Make an appointment with a prescriber**
- ⇒ **Sign the client up for PrEP4Illinois.com**
- ⇒ **Connect them with a PrEP Navigator if appropriate/available**
- ⇒ **Offer other client-centered referrals as needed**

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