



BRITISH COLUMBIA
CENTRE *for* EXCELLENCE
in HIV/AIDS

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January 23, 2018

RE: HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) now available through the BC-CfE Drug Treatment Program

Dear Doctor:

As of January 1, 2018 in British Columbia, **HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)** is available at no cost through the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS (BC-CfE) Drug Treatment Program to qualifying persons deemed clinically at high risk of HIV infection.

Eligibility

Clinical criteria for high risk of acquiring HIV infection are detailed in the BC-CfE PrEP guidelines (www.cfenet.ubc.ca/hiv-pre-exposure-prophylaxis-prep) and include:

- Men who have sex with men and transgender women reporting condomless anal sex **and** any of the following:
 - HIV Incidence Risk Index for men who have sex with men (HIRI-MSM) score of ≥ 10
 - Infectious syphilis or rectal bacterial sexually transmitted STI, particularly if diagnosed in the preceding 12 months
 - Ongoing sexual relationship with an HIV-positive partner not receiving stable HIV treatment and/or does not have an HIV viral load < 200 copies/mL
 - Use of non-occupational HIV post-exposure prophylaxis on more than one occasion
- Heterosexual men and women reporting condomless vaginal or anal sex and have an ongoing sexual relationship with an HIV-positive partner who is not receiving stable HIV treatment and/or does not have an HIV viral load < 200 copies/mL
- People who inject drugs who report sharing injection equipment and have an HIV-positive injecting partner who is not receiving stable HIV treatment and/or does not have an HIV viral load < 200 copies/mL

Persons **must also meet all of the following criteria** to be eligible for HIV PrEP (i.e. emtricitabine-tenofovir DF once daily) through the BC-CfE PrEP program:

- Documented negative 4th generation HIV Ag/Ab test (within the previous 15 days of application)
- Creatinine clearance or estimated glomerular filtration rate >60 mL/min
- Documented hepatitis B surface antigen status (positive or negative)
- Current BC resident with Medical Services Plan (MSP) coverage (i.e. active BC Personal Health Number) or Interim Federal Health coverage (e.g. refugee status)

PrEP Enrolment and Prescription Request

Initial enrolment for PrEP requires completion and submission of the PrEP Enrolment & Prescription Request Form by a licensed BC physician. The form may be downloaded in PDF format from the BC-CfE website (<http://cfenet.ubc.ca/hiv-pre-exposure-prophylaxis-prep>).

Fax (604-806-9044) or mail the PrEP Enrolment & Prescription Form, to the BC-CfE HIV Drug Treatment Program office (608-1081 Burrard Street, Vancouver, BC, V6Z 1Y6). The request will be reviewed within one to two business days and the requesting physician will receive notification of approval by fax.

Medication Dispensing and Refills

Most BC pharmacies DO NOT stock HIV medications. PrEP medication (emtricitabine-tenofovir DF) is dispensed at the St. Paul's Hospital Ambulatory Pharmacy. If outside the Greater Vancouver area, PrEP medication can be delivered to the prescriber's office if specified. For clients starting PrEP for the first time, the initial fill quantity is a 30-day supply. Prescription refill quantity for stable clients is up to a maximum of 90-day supply. A new, signed and dated prescription is required each time PrEP medication is dispensed. PrEP prescriptions must be filled within 30 days of the prescription date.

The prescriber is responsible for ensuring that HIV serology (not point-of-care test), renal function, and other recommended monitoring are performed after the first month and at least every 3 months thereafter in keeping with BC-CfE PrEP guidelines. The prescriber should ensure the client remains HIV negative and PrEP eligibility criteria persist prior to authorizing each prescription refill.

Healthcare Provider Support

For further information regarding PrEP access and monitoring, please access the BC-CfE website (www.cfenet.ubc.ca) or contact the REACH line (Rapid Expert Advice and Consultation for HIV) at 604-681-5748 (Vancouver) or 1-800-665-7677 (Outside Vancouver).

Sincerely,



Julio S.G. Montaner, MD, FRCPC, FCCP, FACP, FRSC
Director, BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, St. Paul's Hospital, Providence Health Care

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