



PrEP in a Pharmacy

Pharmacists can initiate PrEP and PEP to prevent HIV and reduce health disparities*

What are PrEP and PEP?

- PrEP is medication that when used correctly **can reduce the risk of HIV through sexual transmission by 99%** and can also prevent HIV transmission through injection drug use.
- PEP is a 3-drug HIV medication regimen for 28 days, that can be started within 72 hours of a possible exposure to HIV to prevent HIV infection, in persons who are not taking PrEP.
- See page 4 for recommended PrEP and PEP regimens.

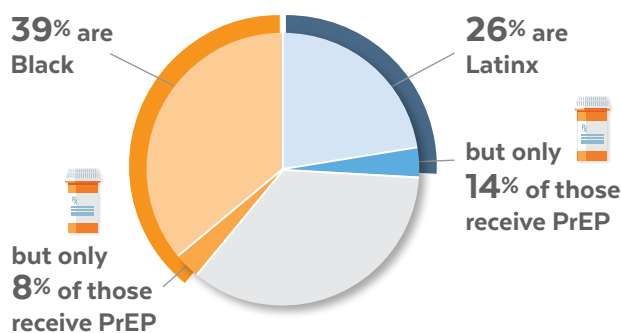


PrEP can reduce the risk of HIV by 99%.

Pharmacy PrEP is an opportunity to decrease disparities in HIV prevention

- Pharmacies are accessible to people not engaged in the healthcare system.
- Pharmacists can increase PrEP and PEP awareness and uptake of these two HIV prevention tools.
 - Tip: Start discussions with patients by asking, “Have you heard of PrEP?”, “Do you know what it does?”
- Having the medication on hand is important for timely access to PrEP and PEP.
- Pharmacies can help enroll patients in programs to pay for PrEP and PEP and assist with cost barriers.

ACCORDING TO THE CDC, OF THOSE ELIGIBLE FOR PREP...¹



Pharmacists can initiate and furnish PrEP and PEP

- Under California SB159, pharmacists may furnish a 30-day course of PEP and up to a 60-day supply of PrEP.
 - See the attached SB159 guide for implementation requirements.
 - Refer to primary care or other provider for ongoing PrEP care.
- Pharmacists can set up Collaborative Practice Agreements with physicians to allow for all steps of ongoing PrEP care to take place in a pharmacy.

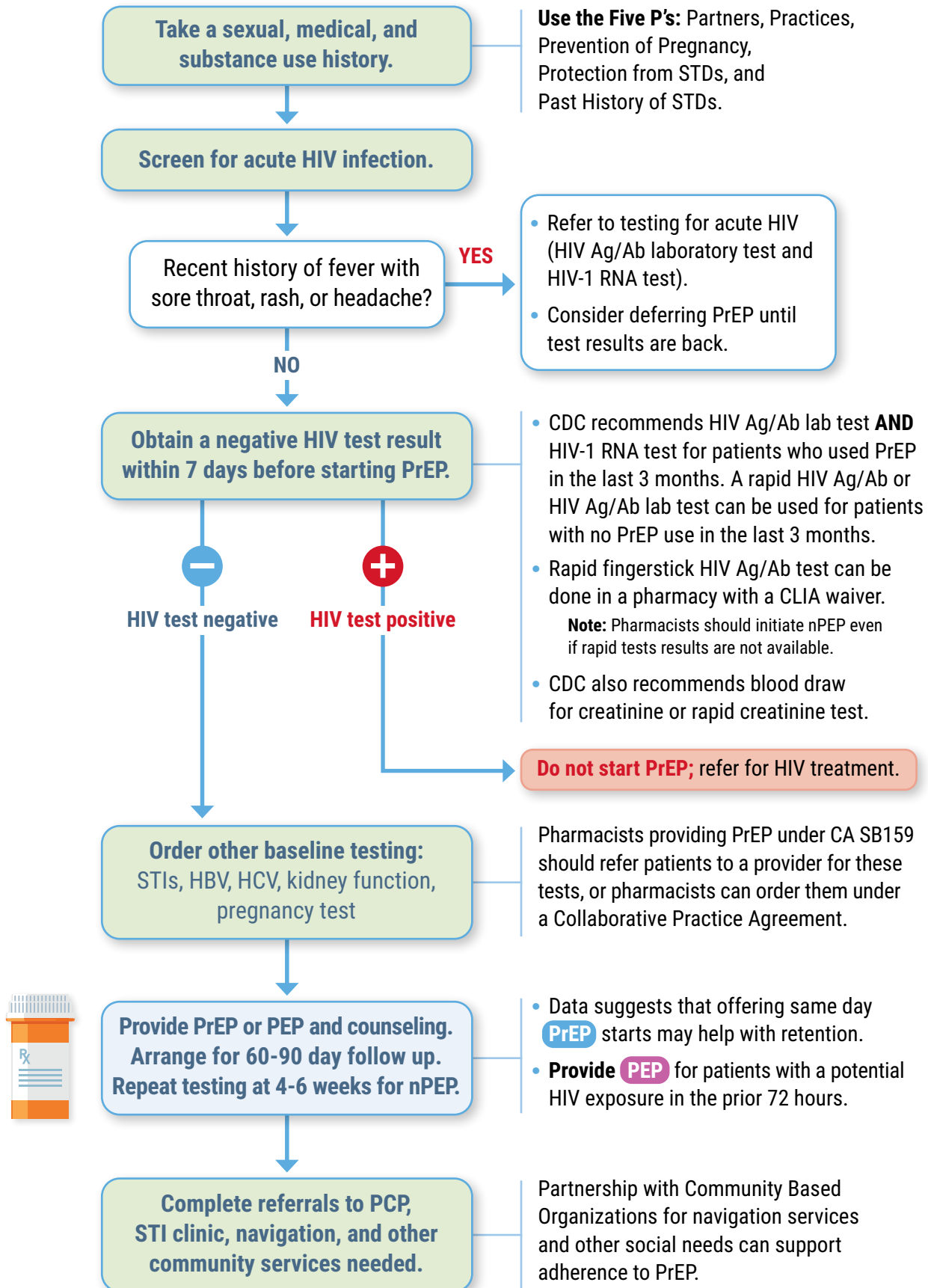
Who may benefit from PrEP?

- Anyone who self-identifies a need for PrEP
- Men who have sex with men (MSM)
- Trans women
- People with sex partners who are living with HIV or at risk for HIV
- People who inject drugs or use stimulants during sex
- People who have had a sexually transmitted infection (STI)
- People who have condomless anal or vaginal sex

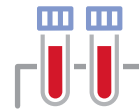


*A pharmacy PrEP program should include both PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) and PEP (post-exposure prophylaxis) for HIV.

Process for pharmacist initiation of PrEP and PEP and ongoing monitoring



CDC recommended oral PrEP baseline and follow up testing

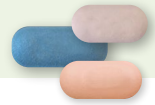


Test	Initiation	Q3	Q6	Q12	Comments
Assess HIV risk and PrEP indication	✓	✓		✓	Assess HIV risk by collecting medical, sexual, drug use history, and drug-drug interactions every 3 months. Assess appropriateness of therapy at least annually.
HIV test and screen for signs of acute HIV	✓	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negative HIV test must be obtained within 7 days before initiation. CDC recommends HIV Ag/Ab laboratory testing. Consider providing rapid fingerstick HIV Ag/Ab blood test for same day PrEP starts if no PrEP use in last 3 months. Order HIV-1 RNA test if patient has used PrEP in last 3 months or if concern for acute HIV.
Renal function (CrCl)	✓		✓	✓ ^a	If other risks for decreased renal function exist (i.e. diabetes, hypertension), conduct more frequent renal monitoring.
Lipid panel test	✓			✓ ^b	Monitor weight gain.
HBV serology	✓				Obtain HBsAg or documentation of vaccine history before initiation. Note: Per CDC, do not withhold PrEP initiation while obtaining Hep B status.
HCV screening	✓			✓	Conduct rapid point of care HCV test or lab-based testing.
Pregnancy test	✓	✓			Conduct pregnancy test in persons of childbearing potential.
STI testing	✓	✓	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess for signs and symptoms of STIs. Order syphilis, gonorrhea, and chlamydia tests, with frequency of 3-6 months depending on risk factors. For MSM and trans men and women, 3-site gonorrhea and chlamydia testing should be completed, and self-collection is encouraged.
PrEP counseling	✓	✓			Include medication adherence counseling, importance of timely follow up, and sexual health counseling.
Additional prevention services	✓	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide harm reduction for injection drug use and offer naloxone for people who use opioids. Recommend providing vaccinations including hepatitis A and B, meningococcal, COVID-19, and HPV as indicated.

^aQ12 months for persons < 50 years and eCrCl > 90 ml/min; Q6 months for all other persons. ^bfor F/TAF

PrEP oral medications^a

There are a variety of PrEP pill sizes and colors.



**Tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (300 mg)/
emtricitabine (200 mg)
F/TDF (generic or Truvada[®])**

**Tenofovir alafenamide (25 mg)/
emtricitabine 200 mg
F/TAF (Descovy[®])**

Dosing^b	1 pill orally once daily	1 pill orally once daily
Approved for	Persons weighing 35kg or greater, for any PrEP indication including sexual transmission or injection drug use	Men who have sex with men (MSM) and trans women weighing 35kg or greater, but not for receptive vaginal sex or injection drug use
Side effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally safe and well tolerated • Some people have gas, nausea or headache. These symptoms often go away within the 1st month. • Small changes in kidney function measurement and bone mineral density can occur, but are generally not deemed clinically significant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally safe and well tolerated • Some people have gas, nausea or headache. These symptoms often go away within the 1st month. • Small increases in LDL cholesterol • Small increases in body weight
Safety considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not recommended for those with chronic kidney disease and eGFR <60 ml/min • Caution in those with osteoporosis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not recommended for those with chronic kidney disease and eGFR <30 ml/min

^aLong-acting injectable cabotegravir can be administered every 2 months for PrEP.

^bUnder SB159, pharmacists are authorized to provide up to a 60 day supply. CDC recommends providing a 90 day supply, which pharmacists may provide through a Collaborative Practice Agreement.

PEP medications

OPTION 1

F/TDF

1 tablet PO daily*



Dolutegravir 50mg

1 tablet PO daily

OPTION 2

F/TDF

1 tablet PO daily*



Raltegravir 400mg

1 tablet 2x daily

OPTION 3

Bictegravir/F/TAF

Recommended regimens. Alternative regimens can be found in PEP CDC guidelines and by contacting the National PEP Line, nccc.ucsf.edu.

*if renal function eGFR >60 ml/min

What if my patient has a positive HIV test on PrEP?

- Discontinue PrEP immediately to avoid HIV resistance.
- Determine last time they took PrEP and assess overall adherence.
- If initial test returns positive, conduct confirmatory testing or refer for confirmatory testing.
- Patients who test positive should be linked to care with a local HIV treatment provider, ideally same day for rapid initiation of ART (antiretroviral therapy). Rapid initiation of ART is the recommended best practice.
- Compile a list of local HIV medical providers to refer patients who test positive. A directory of HIV providers based on location can be found at www.findhivcare.hrsa.gov.



Trainings fulfilling SB159 requirements:

- **California State Board of Pharmacy:** www.bit.ly/CApharm_PrEP
- **California Society of Health System Pharmacists:** www.bit.ly/cshp_training
- **California Pharmacists Association:** www.bit.ly/cpha_course

Additional PrEP training resources:

- **American Pharmacists Association:** www.bit.ly/apha_implementingPrEP
- **PRIME education:** www.bit.ly/prime_PrEP
- **PowerPak:** www.bit.ly/PowerPak_course
- **Pharmacy Today:** www.bit.ly/PharmToday_implementingPrEP

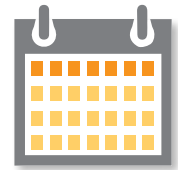


What additional prevention services can pharmacists provide?

- Provide onsite HIV testing services and education on HIV prevention.
- Supply new syringes and needles to people who inject drugs to prevent bloodborne infections including HIV and HCV, and refer to syringe service programs.
- Furnish naloxone to people who use opioids to help reduce overdose deaths.
- Offer vaccinations for COVID-19, influenza, hepatitis A and B, and other communicable diseases.



Recommendation for same day pharmacy PrEP starts:



- Patients are more likely to start PrEP and continue taking it when they can start medication the same day as the visit.
- HIV test must be confirmed negative within 7 days prior to PrEP initiation. All other labs should be ordered at initiation and obtained within 7-10 days after initiation.

Steps to offering PrEP and PEP in a pharmacy*

Areas of practice	Recommended tasks
Develop a collaborative practice agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required for long term PrEP care in a pharmacy, but not required for PrEP or PEP initiation through SB159. • Provides pharmacists prescriptive authority to initiate and dispense PrEP and PEP medications and order required laboratory tests for ongoing PrEP care.
Set up laboratory logistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Order CLIA-waived rapid HIV tests. • If collecting lab specimens onsite: provide pharmacy space for collecting lab specimens, consider on-site phlebotomist, and train staff on specimen collection and handling. • If referring off-site, identify outside laboratory for specimen collection. • Ensure access to laboratory results.
Obtain medical and sexual health assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize intake questionnaire to collect medical, sexual and drug use history, and potential contraindications for PrEP and PEP. • Provide harm reduction counseling. • Provide referrals for active medical conditions (STI, HBV, HCV, substance use treatment) as needed.
Adapt pharmacy workflow and space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish confidential space for sensitive history taking, testing, and discussion of test results. • Consider installing modular ready counseling rooms for privacy. • Set realistic time goals for patient visits and charting.
Establish methods of communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine how confidential information will be stored and shared among team members, patients, referring health providers, and health departments. • Set up access to secure online portals, EMR, texts, or emails.
Provide and monitor education and training for pharmacists and auxiliary staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up pharmacist training program, and as needed, auxiliary staff training. • Training should include competence in PrEP & PEP guidance, counseling on sexual health, serving diverse populations at risk for HIV, and PrEP benefits navigation. • Provide feedback and ongoing training and monitoring.
Identify reimbursement strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay up-to-date on state reimbursement laws. • Consider grant funding, 340b contracts, negotiations with insurance contracts.

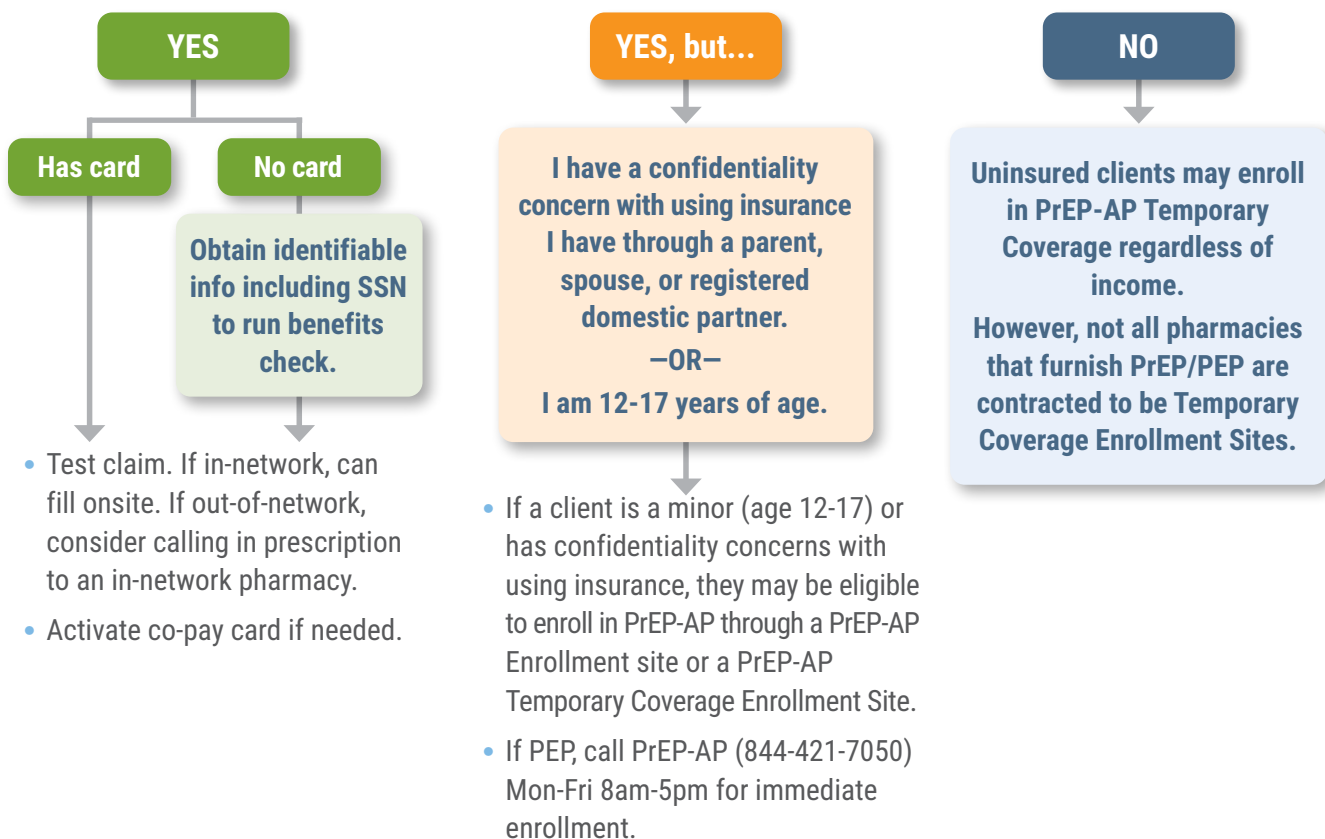
*Adapted and updated from MI Lopez, et al. *J Am Pharm Assoc.* 2020 Jul-Aug;60(4):e18-e24.

How will patients pay for PrEP and PEP?



- Private insurance and Medi-Cal are required to cover PrEP and PEP medications, and most plans in California now pay for PrEP with \$0 cost-sharing.
- Multiple generics for F/TDF are now available, and generic F/TDF for PrEP should not be subject to prior authorization by California-based insurance plans.
- Co-pay assistance can be found through manufacturers and other programs:
 - Patient Advocate Foundation if <400% of FPL: www.copays.org
 - PAN Foundation if <500% of FPL: www.panfoundation.org
- Uninsured patients can access medications through the federal Ready, Set, PrEP program (www.getyourprep.com) or manufacturer assistance programs (MAPs) through Gilead, Merck, and VIIV, the manufacturers of PrEP and PEP medications.
- For patients who are fully enrolled in the California PrEP Assistance Program (PrEP-AP), PrEP-AP provides coverage, or wrap around coverage, of medications on the PrEP-AP formulary and allowable PrEP-related medical services.
 - Enrolled patients can get PrEP and PEP medications through ADAP/Magellen network pharmacies.
 - For PEP, call 844-421-7050 Mon-Fri 8am-5pm, www.bit.ly/cdph_prepAP
 - Pharmacies can contract with the California Department of Public Health to be a PrEP-AP Temporary Coverage Enrollment Site. Pharmacies approved for the program can enroll eligible patients in PrEP-AP for temporary and limited coverage of PrEP, PEP, and certain allowable PrEP-related medical services.

Start by asking the patient: “Do you have prescription insurance?”



Pharmacist PrEP resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Capacity Building Assistance Western Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> San Francisco Department of Health Capacity-Building Assistance: www.getsfcba.org. Contact: get.SFcba@sfdph.org wwwn.cdc.gov/CTS
Clinical consultation on PrEP and PEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clinician Consultation Service (online resources): www.nccc.ucsf.edu Direct and free clinical consultation on PrEP and PEP is available: PrEP line at 888-448-4911 (Mon-Fri, 9 am-8 pm ET) PEP line at 855-448-7737
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guidelines for PrEP and PEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> www.cdc.gov/hiv/guidelines/preventing.html Preexposure prophylaxis for the prevention of HIV infection in the United States—2021 Update: a clinical practice guideline. Updated guidelines for antiretroviral postexposure prophylaxis after sexual, injection drug use, or other nonoccupational exposure to HIV—United States, 2016
WHO PrEP toolkit	www.who.int/tools/prep-implementation-tool
Constructing collaborative practice agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> www.cpha.com/ce-events/on-demand-courses/cpa www.aphafoundation.org/collaborative-practice-agreements
AIDS education and training	www.aidsetc.org/topics
AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP)	www.bit.ly/adap-sites
University of Washington training modules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National HIV Curriculum, including PrEP and PEP: www.hiv.uw.edu National STD Curriculum: www.std.uw.edu National Hepatitis training module: www.hepatitisc.uw.edu
CDC CLIA waived testing	www.bit.ly/waived-tests
Liverpool HIV drug interactions	www.hiv-druginteractions.org
CDC National PrEP locator	www.prepolator.org
PrEP-AP enrollment sites	www.bit.ly/prep-ap-sites
LGBTQ education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GLAAD tips for allies: www.glaad.org/about LGBTQ Health Education: www.bit.ly/LGBTQIA_edu
CA state and county PrEP sites <i>(List is not all inclusive. Contact counties for updated resources.)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> California Department of Public Health: www.bit.ly/cdph_prep Los Angeles County: getprepla.com/centers-of-excellence San Diego County: www.bit.ly/SanDiego_HHSA San Francisco County: www.askaboutprep.org
Planned Parenthood	www.plannedparenthood.org
CA PrEP advocacy sites <i>(Please check with your county for additional resources.)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AIDS Program of Los Angeles: www.prepexpress.org Los Angeles LGBT Center: www.prephere.org San Francisco AIDS Program: www.sfaf.org/services/prep

1. National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention AtlasPlus surveillance data. www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/atlas. Accessed April 12, 2022.

