



SB159

California Pharmacists Initiation of PrEP and PEP in a pharmacy

In 2019, California passed SB159 legislation to allow pharmacists to initiate important HIV prevention medications to reduce HIV risk and incidence.



SB159 KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Allows pharmacists to independently initiate and furnish PrEP for up to 60 days and PEP for 30 days.
- Mandates Medi-Cal (California Medicaid Program) to reimburse pharmacist services for PrEP and PEP.
- Prohibits Prior Authorizations on PrEP medications to facilitate medication access.

Under SB159, a pharmacist may furnish a 30-60 day supply of PrEP if all of the following requirements are met:

- 1 Patient is HIV negative, documented within prior 7 days.**
 - Test can be Ab only or Ag/Ab or FDA approved rapid finger stick blood Point of Care test. If test result is not provided by the patient, pharmacist should order HIV test.
- 2 Patient does not have signs/symptoms of acute HIV on a self-reported checklist.**
 - Symptoms of acute HIV include: flu-like symptoms such as fever, fatigue, myalgias, pharyngitis, cervical adenopathy, night sweats, diarrhea, and rash.
- 3 Patient does not report taking any contraindicated medications.**
- 4 Pharmacist provides counseling to patient regarding ongoing use of PrEP, which may include:**
 - Counseling on side effects and adherence
 - Importance of timely testing and treatment for HIV, renal function, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, STIs, and pregnancy
 - Safety during pregnancy and breastfeeding
 - Notify patient they must be seen by a PCP for ongoing prescription and that a pharmacist can only furnish a 60-day supply of PrEP once every 2 years
- 5 Services provided must be documented in the patient record in the pharmacy.**
- 6 Pharmacist should not furnish more than a 60-day supply once every 2 years to a patient.***
- 7 Pharmacist should notify patient's PCP, unless the patient does not have one or refuses consent. The pharmacist should then provide a list of physicians and clinics for PrEP.**
- 8 The patient cannot waive the consultation.**

*Unless otherwise directed by a prescriber or under collaborative practice agreement.

Pharmacist can furnish a full 30-day course of PEP if all of the following requirements are met:

- 1 Pharmacist determines the HIV exposure occurred within the past 72 hours and the patient meets clinical eligibility for PEP consistent with CDC guidelines.
- 2 Pharmacist provides HIV testing that is classified as CLIA waived or determines patient is willing to undergo HIV testing consistent with CDC guidelines.
If patient refuses to undergo testing but is otherwise eligible for PEP, pharmacist can still provide PEP.
- 3 Pharmacist provides counseling to patient on the use of PEP consistent with CDC guidelines, which may include:
 - Side effects, safety during pregnancy and breastfeeding, adherence, and importance of timely testing and treatment, as applicable for HIV, renal function, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, STIs, pregnancy
 - Inform the patient on the availability of PrEP for persons who have ongoing risk of HIV acquisition.
- 4 Pharmacist should notify patient's PCP, unless the patient does not have one or refuses consent. The pharmacist should then provide a list of physicians and clinics for PEP.
- 5 The patient cannot waive the consultation.

Checklist for implementing SB159

- Complete 90-minute Continuing Education requirement.
- Become familiar with CDC PrEP and PEP Guidelines.
- Consider HIV testing options for PrEP and PEP patients in the pharmacy.
- Compile referral lists for lab-based testing, ongoing PrEP providers, substance use services, and social support.



HIV testing in the pharmacy setting

- CDC recommends laboratory 4th generation Ag/Ab test or rapid, point-of-care fingerstick blood test.
- Rapid HIV tests can be conducted in a pharmacy that obtains a CLIA waiver certificate, allowing patients to access same-day PrEP starts.
- Trained staff members may perform CLIA-waivered point-of-care testing. Consider utilizing a phlebotomist under collaborative practice or referring patients to a nearby laboratory.



Where can pharmacists complete PrEP and PEP training for SB159?

- 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



How can pharmacists connect patients to long term PrEP care?

- Partner with local Community Based Organizations that provide navigation services to long term PrEP care.
- Compile a referral list of local PrEP care providers and other social support services.
- PrEP provider locator can be found at www.preplocator.org.

