

# PBS listing of HIV PrEP on 1 April 2018

## Information for NSW general practitioners



1. On 1 April 2018, HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis was PBS listed as a streamlined authority item
2. GPs have a critical role in PrEP prescription
3. People at high and medium risk of HIV infection are eligible, mostly gay and bisexual men
4. 3 monthly STI and 3 - 6 monthly renal function testing is indicated

### HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)

- PrEP, regular HIV testing, and early HIV treatment, as well as the use of condoms, are key strategies in the elimination of HIV transmission
- PrEP is a well-tolerated, daily combination tablet (tenofovir + emtricitabine) taken by HIV-negative people to prevent HIV infection. PrEP is very effective if taken daily, but poor adherence can result in HIV infection
- PrEP does not prevent transmission of other STIs, such as chlamydia, gonorrhoea and syphilis
- Initial side effects are usually mild and resolve after 2-4 weeks: headache, abdominal pain, weight loss
- Other side effects include:
  1. Renal function- initial <5% drop, stable and reversible thereafter. Higher risk if age >40 years or eGFR<90 mL/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup> at baseline
  2. Low bone mineral density- 1-2% initial drop, remaining stable and reversible thereafter.

### Prescribing PrEP (for details, refer to ASHM PrEP Guidelines) <https://www.ashm.org.au/HIV/PrEP/>

- Check HIV risk eligibility
- Check clinical eligibility
- Perform baseline HIV, STI, hepatitis B and C and renal function tests
- Prescribe TENOFOVIR + EMTRICITABINE and use the Streamlined Authority Code 7580 on an Authority Prescription for PrEP commencement when HIV-negative status is confirmed.

### On-going monitoring is essential

- HIV test at one month and three monthly thereafter
- STI screening three monthly
- eGFR 6-12 monthly
- Counsel about adherence and assess on-going risk.

### STIs are common in PrEP users as PrEP is indicated for those at high and medium risk of HIV infection

- Prompt treatment and contact tracing are critical - see **Australian STI Management Guidelines:** [www.sti.guidelines.org.au](http://www.sti.guidelines.org.au)
- Chlamydia and gonorrhoea prevalence at baseline was 9.1% and 8.6% respectively in participants in the NSW PrEP trial (EPIC-NSW).

### Call the Sexual Health Info Link (SHIL) on 1800 451 624 for advice on:

- HIV risk assessment, especially heterosexual, transgender people
- STI management
- Concerns about side effects.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kerry Chant'.

**Dr Kerry Chant**  
**Chief Health Officer, NSW**  
April 2018