



# Access to PrEP and PEP

## What is PrEP and PEP?

Two medications have transformed the fight against HIV: PrEP and PEP.

- **Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)** is a daily medication for people at risk for HIV from sex or injection drug use. PrEP is highly effective; when taken every day, PrEP reduces the risk of contracting HIV by 99 percent.
- **Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP)** is an antiretroviral drug used to prevent HIV after a high-risk event, such as unprotected sex or needle sharing. You must start PEP within 72 hours after a possible exposure to HIV.

### **Alert: California still covers PrEP and PEP despite the Texas Court ruling!**

Recently, a Texas Court ruled that a part of the Affordable Care Act that required plans to cover PrEP and PEP for free is unlawful. That Court has not yet decided a remedy for the case – as a result, access to free PrEP and PEP for people outside California is uncertain. But regardless of what happens in that case, most plans in California must still cover PrEP and PEP for free. This includes plans licensed by the California Department of Insurance, plans licensed by the California Department of Managed Health Care, and all Medi-Cal plans.

## How can I access PrEP or PEP?

- Ask your primary care provider if taking PrEP or PEP makes sense for you.
- Pharmacists are authorized to dispense PrEP and PEP in California without a prescription, after testing and counseling (some pharmacies may not offer this service).
- You can also call your health plan to find out which providers in your plan can prescribe PrEP and PEP.
- There are also many providers, such as Planned Parenthood, that can provide same day prescriptions. If you need immediate access to PrEP or PEP, the California Department of Public Health's [Immediate Access program](#) may be able to help.
- If you are uninsured, you may be able to access PrEP or PEP through the California Department of Public Health's [Temporary Coverage program](#).

## Who can I call for more information or help?

If you are experiencing problems getting access to PrEP or PEP you can get free legal assistance contact the [Health Consumer Alliance](#) at 888-804-3536 / TTY 877-735-2929.

**HCA Statewide Toll Free 1.888.804.3536**  
[Healthconsumer.org](https://www.healthconsumer.org)

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