Stopping HIV transmission one person at a time.

Got PrEP SC?

For More Information
scdhec.gov/PrEP

Contact Us
1-800-322-2437
prepmesc@dhec.sc.gov

Other Resources

Access the digital version of this material:
What is PrEP?
• PrEP stands for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis.
• It is a safe and effective daily pill or injectable taken to prevent HIV and can lower your chances of contracting HIV.

Why should women take PrEP?
• Women account for 1 in 5 new HIV diagnosis.
• As of 2019, 18% of newly diagnosed with HIV were women.
• 227,000 US women are eligible for PrEP but only 10% are taking it.

Who should consider PrEP?
• Anyone in an ongoing relationship with an HIV-positive partner (especially if viral load status is unknown)
• Anyone who does not use condoms consistently.
• Anyone who injects drugs and shares needles with people of unknown HIV status.
• Anyone with prior STDs in the past six months (gonorrhea, syphilis, chlamydia)

When does PrEP start working?
• Oral PrEP is effective after 20 days for those who have vaginal sex and after 7 days for those who have anal/rectal sex.

Can I take PrEP while pregnant?
• Yes. PrEP is safe to take while you are pregnant/breastfeeding.

Can I take PrEP while on birth control?
• Yes. PrEP is safe and does not interfere with your birth control.

Does PrEP protect against other STDs?
No. PrEP does not protect against other STDs. Condoms are the only way to protect against other STDs when sexually active.

How do I pay for PrEP?
• PrEP is covered by most insurance companies and Medicaid.
• Co-pay cards and drug assistance programs for the uninsured are available. Visit scdhec.gov/PrEP for a list of programs.