

Facts About Pharmacist-Prescribed PrEP & PEP (HB 2958)

Note: Based on feedback from pharmacists, healthcare providers, and other stakeholders, advocates for Pharmacist-Prescribed PrEP & PEP have requested an amendment to HB 2958. This fact sheet refers to the bill as it will be amended. It is up-to-date as of 3/4/21.

Pharmacist-Prescribed PrEP & PEP will:

- Clarify that licensed pharmacists in Oregon have the legal authority to conduct an HIV test, order lab tests, and interpret lab-test results, all of which they must be able to do to safely prescribe PrEP
- Require that insurers reimburse pharmacists for their assessment of a patient, and any necessary lab testing and interpretation, for the purposes of prescribing medication they are authorized to prescribe. Without this financial incentive, it will not be feasible for pharmacists to prescribe PrEP & PEP.
- Prohibit insurers from requiring prior authorization for PrEP or PEP or restricting reimbursement for PrEP or PEP to in-network pharmacists or pharmacies.



Pharmacist-Prescribed PrEP & PEP will not:

- Expand pharmacist's scope of practice to include prescribing PrEP & PEP. Pharmacists already have the legal authority to prescribe PrEP & PEP, but lack a financial incentive and the clear authority to do what's needed to safely prescribe these therapies (e.g., conduct an HIV test before prescribing PrEP).
- Allow unsafe PrEP and PEP prescribing practices. In order to prescribe PrEP and PEP, pharmacists will need to complete a comprehensive training on prescribing HIV prevention medications and follow an Oregon Board of Pharmacy-approved protocol. Patients will need to demonstrate that they are HIV-negative before receiving a 30-day starter supply of PrEP, undergo all recommended lab tests with no contraindicative results before receiving a standard 90-day supply, and continue to undergo the recommended tests every 90 days in order to receive refills. Pharmacist PrEP management is a safe, effective model being followed in pharmacies and STI clinics across the country.
- Require pharmacies or pharmacists to prescribe PrEP or PEP. The bill only permits it.

Pharmacist-Prescribed PrEP & PEP is urgently needed to make these life-saving therapies more accessible to disproportionately HIV-affected communities:

- More than 37,000 people were newly diagnosed with HIV in the U.S. in 2018 (the most recent year for which data is available). Almost half were Black, and a quarter were Latinx.
- The CDC estimates that 44% of those who could benefit from PrEP are Black and 25% are Latinx, but less than 1% of those prescribed PrEP are from these communities.
- If current HIV diagnoses rates continue, one in two Black gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men will be diagnosed with HIV in their lifetime.



Pharmacy and HIV medical experts say pharmacist-prescribed PrEP is safe & effective:

“Pharmacist-driven PrEP is a safe, innovative strategy for PrEP delivery that is poised to increase PrEP access, particularly in more rural areas of Oregon where the closest PrEP provider is more than a 60-minute drive in one direction.”

--Tim Menza, MD, PhD; Medical Director for Oregon Health Authority HIV/STD/TB Section

“Pharmacists have the ability to provide this important service to clients across the state. This will also help with stigma, disclosure, and confidentiality issues, and reduce HIV incidence.”

--Toni Kempner, RN, MSN, ACRN; Multnomah County HIV Health Services Clinic

“The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us that efficient access to quality infection prevention tools is the key to stopping the spread of viral disease. HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis is one of the MOST effective prevention tools available today. People who are at risk for HIV have a powerful, safe, and reliable means of preventing a deadly infection. Pharmacist prescribing of HIV PrEP allows our pharmacists to meet patients where they're at, both literally and figuratively, and will take us a long ways towards our goal of no new HIV infections.”

-- Geoff L'Heureux, PharmD, AAHIVP

“At HIV Alliance, we have been prescribing PrEP to at-risk clients using a pharmacist-physician collaborative agreement for the past 18 months. Our pharmacist has exhibited every element of professional expertise and knowledge necessary to perform this critically important care. The availability of PrEP in rural communities in Oregon will be severely compromised without the ability of pharmacists provide this service.”

-- Rob Barnes, MD, FACP; Medical Director, HIV Alliance

Pharmacist-Prescribed PrEP & PEP is supported by the organizations working in the community to prevent HIV, promote LGBTQ+ well-being, and advance health equity:



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HIVAlliance



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If you have questions or concerns about Pharmacist-Prescribed PrEP & PEP, please reach out to Cascade AIDS Project's Public Policy & Grants Manager, Jonathan Frochtzwajg, at jfrochtzwajg@capnw.org or (503) 278-3852.