

Paying for PrEP

- PrEP is not publicly funded in BC and Truvada costs around \$1000 a month. The patent has expired and somewhat less expensive generic options are becoming available.
- If you are First Nations, Inuit or Métis and have status, full federal funding for PrEP is available.
- A few extended health insurance packages provide limited coverage for PrEP.
- Some BC residents are accessing a generic version of PrEP online and then traveling to the U.S. to retrieve the medication for around \$65 a month. For more info, visit: daviebuyersclub.wordpress.com



AIDS Vancouver Island

Men's Health and Wellness Program

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AIDS Vancouver Island offers harm reduction services, health promotion programming, and a positive wellness program for people living with Hep C and/or H.I.V.

We have offices in Victoria, Nanaimo, Courtenay and Campbell River. For more info, visit www.avi.org

Are You PrEP'd?

PrEP:
A Daily Pill that Helps Protect Against H.I.V.

What is PrEP?

- PrEP stands for pre-exposure prophylaxis. It is a medication that HIV- people can take to reduce their risk of becoming HIV+
- PrEP is a pill which combines two modern anti-retrovirals. This medication is used by people living with HIV to fight the virus and stay healthy. The first name brand is Truvada, but identical options from other companies are becoming available now the patent has expired.
- Taking this medication daily allows HIV- people to build up consistent levels of anti-HIV medication in their blood and tissues to protect them from HIV

What PrEP Is Not:

- PrEP provides no protection against other STI's like Chlamydia, Gonorrhea or Syphilis, which can be spread more easily than HIV. It is important to have regular testing for STI's. Remember, all STI's are treatable, most are curable and the consistent use of condoms remains a highly effective practice.
- PrEP is not to be pursued as a crisis response. However, starting similar medications (known as PEP, or post-exposure prophylaxis) within 72 hours of a potential exposure to HIV can significantly reduce the risk of becoming HIV positive. To access PEP, go straight to the nearest emergency room or contact AVI or a Sexual Health Clinic for support.

Getting a Prescription

- Taking PrEP requires frequent visits to the doctor and testing.
- If you have a family doctor that you are comfortable speaking with, they may be able to prescribe PrEP.
- There are some doctors in Victoria who are willing to prescribe PrEP. AVI's MWP can help point you in the right direction if you contact us directly.
- If you are a self-identified man who has sex with men, and you can travel to Vancouver for follow up visits, you can access PrEP through the Health Initiative for Men's clinic at #421— 1033 Davie Street. Their phone number is 604-488-1001 ext. 223 or 227.