



## Minding the Gap

### HIV Prevention

#### National HIV Testing Day June 27: Take the Test, Take Control

National HIV Testing Day is recognized every year on June 27. It's a day to promote HIV testing and early diagnosis of HIV in the United States; an important goal because the CDC estimates approximately 18 percent of all persons infected with HIV are unaware. The annual theme is "Take the Test, Take Control." Correctional facilities have a unique opportunity to help people who are unaware of their positive HIV status learn their status because they often have frequent contact with people who are at higher risk for HIV infection, such as those people who use injection drugs.

Rapid HIV testing is a great option for jails. Using rapid tests removes the risk of inmates being released prior to learning their HIV test result. Other benefits of rapid tests include low-cost testing technology options, an [oral fluid option](#), and test development timeframes that can be matched to clinic flow. The Oregon HIV Prevention Program staff have developed a document comparing [rapid testing technologies available in Oregon](#). Jail inmates covered by the Oregon Medical Insurance Pool (OMIP) are eligible to have their medical services covered by OMIP even when they are in jail. HIV testing, including rapid testing, is a billable procedure.



#### Contact us!

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## HIV PrEP and nPEP: Worthwhile? Yep!

The use of antiretroviral therapy (ART) by HIV-negative persons to prevent HIV infection has gained considerable attention. Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is the use of ART by persons at high risk for acquiring HIV. Non-occupational post-exposure prophylaxis (nPEP) is a 28-day course of ART initiated within 72 hours of a known or potential exposure to HIV. PrEP and nPEP are valuable, evidence-based HIV prevention tools. Other prevention efforts such as condom use, new syringes, new drug injection equipment, and ART use by people living with HIV can also reduce the risk of transmission.

Recently, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) published a Communicable Disease Summary ([CD Summary](#)) about [PrEP and nPEP](#). This CD Summary provides 1) research findings relating to PrEP and nPEP, 2) recommendations for assessing risk, prescribing medications and follow up of patients, and 3) resources for both clinicians and patients. In addition, the OHA has developed [nPEP guidelines for people who have been sexually assaulted](#).

Many insurance companies cover PrEP and nPEP. Currently, the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) does not have any restrictions

on coverage for PrEP or nPEP. The Pharmacy and Therapeutics committee that conducts drug use review and makes policy recommendations to the Oregon Office of Medical Assistance Programs may be examining PrEP and nPEP coverage later this year.

There are resources available to help cover the cost of PrEP and nPEP. **People without insurance coverage for PrEP** may be able to get assistance from the Truvada for PrEP Medication Assistance Program at 1-855-330-5479 (Monday through Friday, 6:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. PT). **People without insurance coverage for nPEP** may be able to get assistance from Gilead's Advancing Access Program at 1-800-226-2056 (Monday through Friday, 6:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. PT).

Given the 72 hour window for administering nPEP and the increased efficacy with early treatment, “starter packs” with enough nPEP medication to complete at least four days of therapy should be provided immediately while medication assistance applications are processing. Additional information about patient assistance can be found on the [Partnership for Prescription Assistance's website](#).