

PrEPline for clinicians



In September, the Clinician Consultation Center launched a clinician PrEPline (<http://bit.ly/PrEPline>) with supplemental funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Health care providers seeking free, expert

advice on pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) can call (855) 488-7737 from 8am–3pm PT.

The PrEPline is staffed by an expert team of HIV clinicians who can advise health care professionals on whether PrEP is warranted and how to follow-up (e.g., monitoring patients' HIV status and medication adherence).

It is important for clients interested in PrEP to consider that many health care providers have limited experience or no experience prescribing antiretroviral drugs. When discussing PrEP with a clinician, patients should be prepared to discuss their risks, concerns and questions. If the provider is reluctant to prescribe, the client could ask the provider to call the PrEPline to consult with an HIV clinician.

Most insurers cover PrEP and PEP medication. However, there may be other related medical costs, such as co-pays or lab tests. Clients needing assistance with medical costs related to PrEP or PEP can apply for a patient assistance program (<http://bit.ly/PrEP-PAPs>).

Consultation on post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) also is available to clinicians. The PEPline can be accessed at (888) 448-4911 from 6am–11pm PT.

Updated HIV testing information

In October, the OHA HIV Prevention Program published updated HIV testing policies and procedures (<http://bit.ly/HIVtestGuide>). We encourage all organizations in Oregon that conduct HIV testing using public health funding to be familiar with this document.

The policies and procedures were updated to include new resources and information about:

- The criteria under which OHA will cover the cost of HIV testing ([OHA can assist all local health authorities in Oregon!](#))
- Testing technology used by the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory
- Specimen collection, handling and transportation
- Supporting clients that test HIV-positive
- Discussing confidentiality with clients
- HIV and STI Partner Services



Legacy Health supports routine HIV screening

OHA commends Legacy Health for supporting routine HIV screening. In September, Legacy modified its electronic medical records system to include prompts for doctors to screen patients 15–65 years of age.

The impact should be far-reaching. Legacy has more than 50 clinics and hospitals in Oregon and southwest Washington.

Learn about Legacy at www.legacyhealth.org.

Upcoming events

World AIDS Day

Dec. 1

Visit www.worldaidsgiving.org to find or register an event.

Posters and cards promoting World AIDS Day are available at Our House. Contact John Oules at joules@ourhouseofportland.org.



Passport to Partner Services training (Eugene)

Free training on Partner Services for HIV and STIs

Apr. 7–9, 2015

Save the date!

Learn how to:

- Identify and notify partners of individuals diagnosed with HIV and STIs
- Facilitate screening, treatment, and follow-up care for partners

Registration opens January 2015. Local health department staff are encouraged to participate. For more information, contact Josh at joshua.s.ferrer@state.or.us.

Websites and apps address sexual health

In September, representatives from seven of the largest gay dating and “hook-up” websites and apps joined HIV and STI prevention leaders from around the country to discuss strategies for creating healthier online communities.

Websites and apps participating in the meeting included Grindr, SCRUFF, POZ personals, BarebackRT, Daddyhunt, Dudesnude and Gay.com. The group discussed strategies for supporting users’ health, including promoting HIV/STI testing and PrEP; allowing partner notification efforts; addressing stigmatizing language; and offering users options to describe their HIV status, including “not sure” for those who do not know their status and viral load information for HIV-positive users. A report describing the meeting outcomes is available at <http://bit.ly/BHOC2014>.

Additionally, OHA staff worked with Hornet, an app for gay and bisexual men, to add sexual

health content to the app. In August, Hornet integrated the AIDS.gov HIV service locator widget (<http://aids.gov/locator/>), as well as information about PrEP. Hornet shared that, in the first month since the integration of the widget, nearly 350,000 of the app’s users used the widget at least once.

Interviews with persons newly diagnosed with HIV and other STIs in Oregon continue to show that apps and websites play a significant role facilitating sexual partnerships. Collaboration with these and other businesses that facilitate sexual partnerships (e.g., adult video stores, bars) is an effective strategy for reaching at-risk community members.

If your organization is promoting sexual health online, OHA would be interested in learning about your approach. OHA can offer technical assistance, as well. Please email Dano at daniel.w.beck@state.or.us.