



**Oxiris Barbot, MD**  
Commissioner

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Dear Colleague,

Every year, more than 2,000 New Yorkers are diagnosed with HIV. Twenty percent of the new diagnoses occur among women, and approximately 90 percent of these women are Black or Latina.

Following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), New York State, and the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, women should be tested for HIV, and those at risk of HIV exposure should be offered pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) or post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) to prevent infection.

PrEP is a safe, daily pill that can greatly reduce the risk of HIV infection. Emergency PEP is a combination of pills taken daily for 28 days to prevent HIV infection after a possible high-risk exposure to HIV.

This PrEP and PEP Action Kit for Women contains clinical resources for your practice and educational materials for your patients. It also includes specialized information about PrEP and PEP for cisgender and transgender women, regardless of the gender of their sex partners.

This kit outlines and supports the following core HIV prevention practices:

- Take a thorough sexual history from all patients as part of routine medical care. This includes asking about the HIV status of their sexual partners, as well as experiences of intimate partner violence (IPV) and transactional sex, which are associated with increased risk of HIV and sexually transmitted infection (STI) acquisition among women and should be a part of a thorough history.
- Screen and treat all sexually active patients for STIs based on sexual history and clinical guidelines. Offer PrEP to HIV-negative cisgender and transgender women if they receive a diagnosis of gonorrhea or early syphilis, as these STIs signal increased HIV risk among women in New York City.
- Talk about PrEP and PEP with other HIV-negative patients at ongoing risk of exposure, and with HIV-positive patients who may have HIV-negative partners.
- Prescribe PrEP and PEP according to clinical guidelines or refer patients to sites that provide PrEP and PEP.

For more information about PrEP and PEP in New York City, or to learn how to become part of the New York City referral network, contact the New York City Health Department at [PrEPandPEP@health.nyc.gov](mailto:PrEPandPEP@health.nyc.gov) or visit [nyc.gov](http://nyc.gov) and search for **HIV PrEP and PEP**.

We look forward to partnering with you to end the epidemic of HIV in New York City.

Sincerely,

Oxiris Barbot, MD  
Commissioner  
New York City Department of  
Health and Mental Hygiene

Oni Blackstock, MD, MHS  
Assistant Commissioner  
Bureau of HIV/AIDS Prevention  
and Control  
New York City Department of  
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