

## Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Management

Health Services Center, Inc. has begun to offer Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) management services to eligible patients. Pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP, is a way for people who do not have HIV but who are at substantial risk of getting it to prevent HIV infection by taking a pill every day. The pill (brand name Truvada) contains two medicines (tenofovir and emtricitabine) that are used in combination with other medicines to treat HIV.

When taken consistently, PrEP has been shown to reduce the risk of HIV infection in people who are at high risk by up to 92%. PrEP is much less effective if it is not taken consistently. PrEP is a powerful HIV prevention tool but should be combined with condoms, clean needles, and other prevention methods. People who use PrEP must commit to taking the drug every day and seeing their health care provider for follow-up every 3 months.

HSC provides pre-exposure prophylaxis to reduce the risk of sexually acquired HIV infection in adults at high risk. High risk individuals are identified as an individual (MSM or heterosexual individual) who is not HIV infected and has a partner(s) known to be HIV infected or an individual who engages in sexual activity within a high prevalence area or social network and one or more of the following:

- Adult men who have sex with men (MSM)
- Inconsistent or no condom use
- Diagnosis of sexually transmitted infections (STIs)
- Exchange of sex for commodities (such as money, food, shelter, or drugs)
- Use of illicit drugs or alcohol dependence
- Incarceration
- Partner(s) of unknown HIV status with any of the factors listed above

HSC also provides pre-exposure prophylaxis to reduce the risk of HIV infection transmitted through the use of illicit drugs.

Once identified as an individual at risk of HIV infection, HSC will perform an evaluation to determine if you are a candidate for treatment with TRUVADA (emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate). If you are determined to be a candidate, TRUVADA will be prescribed. In combination with TRUVADA, a comprehensive prevention strategy will be utilized to decrease the risk of acquisition of HIV infection. This prevention strategy will include education about:

- Safer sex practices
- Consistent and correct use of condoms
- Knowledge of HIV status
- Regular testing for other STIs
- Methods for cleaning 'works' and obtaining clean needles
- Adherence counseling

**Other Care Resource services include:**

- Rapid HIV and other STI testing and counseling
- Assessment of eligibility PrEP
- Laboratory testing for HIV infection, liver and kidney function, hepatitis status, and other sexually transmitted diseases prior to initiation of PrEP
- Continuous monitoring/follow-up of patients on PrEP
- Access to free PrEP medications
- Insurance assistance to access any prescribed medications for PrEP
- Assistance with accessing emergency medications through patient assistance programs for uninsured and underinsured patients
- Appointments within 72 hours
- Clinic Sites in five locations throughout our 14-County Service Area.

**In limited situations, HSC will evaluate and provide for non-occupational post-exposure HIV prophylaxis as well.**

For HIV testing or PrEP, please call us at 256-832-0100

Also, testing is available at the Revolution Drop-in Center at 320 East 15<sup>th</sup> Street in Anniston. You can also call Project Revolution at 256-405-4104.