## **KNOW YOUR RIGHTS:**

## Patient Coverage of PrEP with No Cost-Sharing

What You Need to Know About New Federal Guidelines

## PRIVATE INSURANCE PLANS MUST COVER PREP DRUGS & ASSOCIATED SERVICES FOR FREE.

New frequently asked questions (FAQs) clarify U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommendations for the coverage of PrEP with no cost-sharing for patients under the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Federal Guidance on the Insurance Coverage of PrEP  Many plans and insurers narrowly interpret regulatory PrEP coverage requirements.	
Coverage Requirements by Grade	The ACA requires all non-grandfathered private plans and Medicaid expansion plans to provide coverage for USPSTF "A" or "B" grade recommendations with no cost-sharing to patients.
PrEP Receives Grade "A" Recommendation	In 2019, the USPSTF gave pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for the prevention of HIV an "A" grade recommending that clinicians offer the medicine to people who are at high risk of HIV.
2021 Federal Guidance Benefits Patients	In 2021, federal agencies released new FAQs clarifying the USPSTF grade "A" recommendation for PrEP to ensure patients can benefit from it, as intended.

Four Things Patients & Providers Need to Know About PrEP Coverage	
Provide Coverage of PrEP Services	PrEP-related ancillary tests and services recommended in CDC's HIV PrEP Clinical Practice Guidelines must be covered with no cost-sharing to patients. <sup>2</sup>
Honor Patient-Provider Choice	Patients must have access with no cost-sharing to the PrEP medication that is medically appropriate for them, as determined by the individual's health care provider.
Ensure Continued Access Protections	Plans cannot restrict the number of times an individual may start PrEP or the frequency of services.
Provides Easy Exceptions Process	Plans must have an easily accessible, transparent, and sufficiently expedient exceptions process.  For example, one that allows prescribing and accessing PrEP medication on the same day that an individual receives a negative HIV test or decides to start taking PrEP.

## By the Numbers: The Patient Value of PrEP to Prevent HIV



PrEP reduces the risk of HIV from sex by **99%** when taken as prescribed. 3



PrEP reduces risk of HIV from drug injection by at least 74% when taken as prescribed. <sup>4</sup>



Only 18% of the 1.2 million people indicated for PrEP are receiving it. <sup>5</sup>

Private plans and insurers must now comply with the federal guidance. Patients have the right to file complaints against non-compliant plans and insurers.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> These federal guidelines do not apply to patients who are insured through Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage or Medicaid-insured through non-expansion plans.
<sup>2</sup> HIV testing, Hepatitis B and C testing, Creatinine testing and calculated estimated creatine clearance (eCrCl) or glomerular filtration rate (eGFR), Pregnancy testing, STI screening and counseling, and

 $<sup>\</sup>label{lem:adherence} Adherence counseling. \\ ^3 \text{ https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/EBSA/about-ebsa/our-activities/resource-center/faqs/aca-part-47.pdf}$ 

https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/basics/prep/prep-effectiveness.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Harris NS, Johnson AS, Huang YLA, et al. Vital Signs: status of human immunodeficiency virus testing, viral suppression, and HIV preexposure prophylaxis—United States, 2013-2018.