

<b>Date:</b>	September 22, 2022
<b>To:</b>	NH Physicians & Nurse Practitioners NH Staff
<b>From:</b>	Ashley Stoppler, Strategic Lead – Regional Chronic Diseases Program Dr. Abu Hamour, Medical Lead – HIV & HCV
<b>Re:</b>	Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV

Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) is a biomedical strategy for the prevention of HIV. PrEP involves the ongoing use of antiretroviral medications (a single pill a day) by HIV-negative individuals before and after potential exposure to the virus. This medication is provincially funded and free of charge through the [BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS \(BCCfE\)](#).

PrEP can be prescribed by any doctor, and by nurse practitioners who have completed the necessary education. If you would like to learn more about PrEP and the prescribing process, see the [BC Centre for Disease Control's PrEP Overview for Clinicians](#) and the [BCCfE's HIV PrEP Guidelines](#).

If you are a prescriber who would like support to offer PrEP, the pharmacist on the Northern Health [Specialized Support Team for HIV & HCV](#) is available to assist you. The team can be reached at [sst@northernhealth.ca](mailto:sst@northernhealth.ca) or 1-888-645-6495.

On September 19, 2022, the BCCDC expanded its virtual PrEP service to NH residents to provide an additional point of PrEP access for those:

- Without primary care providers
- Whose primary care providers do not prescribe PrEP
- Who are uncomfortable discussing their need for PrEP with their primary care provider

Through this service, known as TelePrEP, clinicians from the [BCCDC's STI Clinic](#) provide all activities related to prescribing PrEP. This includes initial assessment, requisitioning of lab work, enrollment paperwork, shipping of medication to patients, and prescription re-fills. If a positive lab result is received during the regular sexually transmitted and blood borne infection (STBBI) testing, these clinicians will notify the patient. BCCDC clinicians are responsible for all monitoring and follow-up, with positive lab results for reportable conditions, such as HIV or HCV, also communicated to Public Health through the standard provincial reporting processes. Whenever possible, the TelePrEP clinicians transition ongoing care to local providers.

Patients can self-refer by calling the BCCDC at 1-604-707-5600 and requesting a TelePrEP appointment for Northern Health. If you would like TelePrEP wallet cards to share with patients, please email [RCD.Communications@northernhealth.ca](mailto:RCD.Communications@northernhealth.ca).