

# ASHM HIV PrEP Toolkit

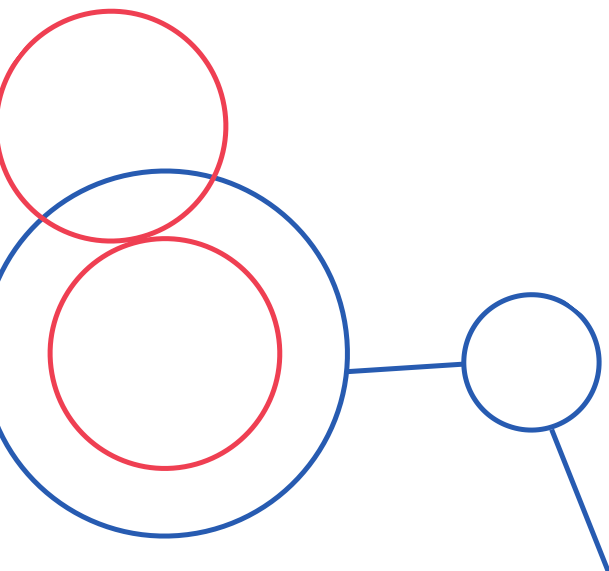
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## What is PrEP?



Co-formulated tenofovir and emtricitabine for use as HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) by people at risk of HIV infection is now recommended as standard care in clinical guidelines in Australia. PrEP is highly effective in preventing the acquisition of HIV when taken daily or on-demand as prescribed.

PrEP is an effective prevention strategy for men who have sex with men (MSM), heterosexual men and women, transgender people, and people who inject drugs at risk of HIV acquisition. In addition, on-demand PrEP is highly effective in MSM and has recently been recommended by the World Health Organisation as an option for MSM.



# Access to PrEP in Australia



There are three ways to access HIV PrEP in Australia:

## 1. Through the Australian health-care system

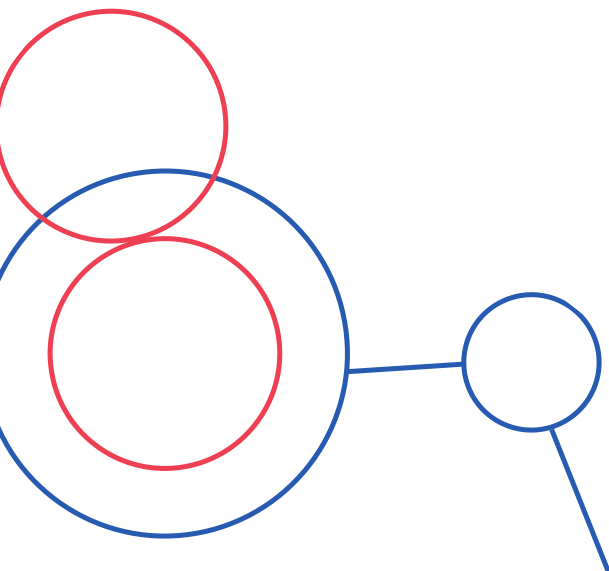
For an Australian resident with a current Medicare card, PrEP can be accessed through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) at a subsidised cost. PrEP is listed as a Schedule 85 (s85) drug, so any doctor can write a script for PrEP, which can be taken to any pharmacy for dispensing. If PrEP is accessed this way, a PBS co-payment at the pharmacy must be made.

## 2. Private script for supply from Australian pharmaceutical manufacturer

Any doctor can write a private script for PrEP, and they have three brands to choose from (Generic Health Pty Ltd, Apotex Pty Ltd and Alphapharm Pty Ltd). Patients can have this script dispensed at a community pharmacy. The cost of a private script is higher than for PBS-subsidised medicines. This option is generally used by people who are not eligible for Medicare and do not feel comfortable using the Personal Importation Scheme described below.

## 3. Through personal importation or purchase

If a person is not eligible to access PrEP through Medicare, or finds the cost of purchasing PrEP locally too high, then another option is to purchase a generic version online from a reliable overseas supplier using the Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA'S) Personal Importation Scheme. A script from a doctor is still required before ordering online. Multiple overseas suppliers will supply PrEP for import into Australia at a range of costs. [The PrEP Access Now website](#) has more information on personal importation.





# Changes to PrEP Prescribing in Australia



## **Prescribing PrEP Changes (2021)**

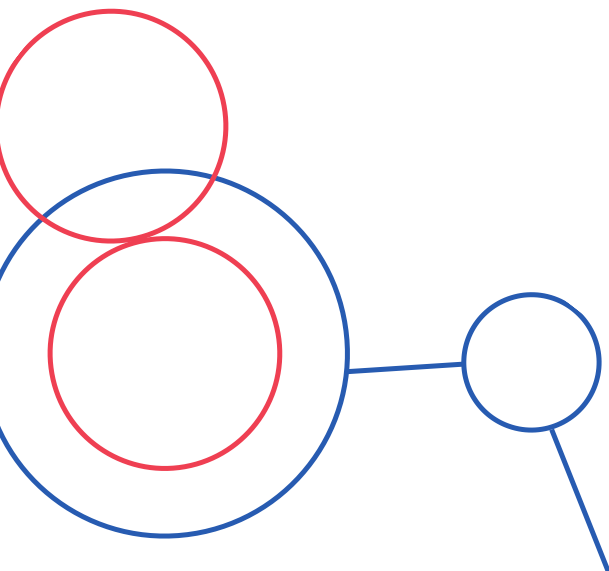
ASHM's submission to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) to change the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) criteria for prescribing PrEP has been successful.

From 15 January 2021, it is easier than ever to prescribe PBS-funded PrEP, making PrEP more accessible.

Key changes:

- The removal of high and medium HIV risk categories and aligning them with the PrEP suitability criteria in the updated [ASHM PrEP guidelines](#)
- The removal of an age restriction where a patient was required to be 18 years or older
- The expansion of the window for a negative HIV test result before treatment to \*4 weeks, assisting access for rural and remote patients
- The restriction level has been reduced from "Authority Required" to a "Restricted Benefit" to support broad access for patients at risk of HIV infection.

\* [The ASHM PrEP Clinical guidelines](#) recommend patients start PrEP within 7 days of the day their HIV-negative test was performed, however, this might not always be possible for patients living in rural and remote areas. HIV testing must be repeated every 3 months when patients attend for a prescription refill. This requirement for quarterly visits should be explained to patients during the initial discussion about whether PrEP is appropriate for them.



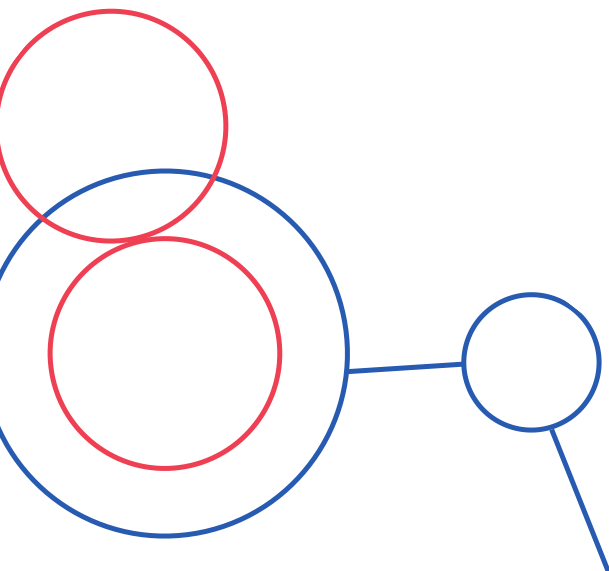
## **PBS Delisting of Truvada® (2020)**

From 1 April 2020 Truvada® (emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) for HIV treatment and for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) was delisted from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). ASHM has received reports from the community that despite this, Truvada® is still being written on some scripts, causing confusion at pharmacies and in some cases, patients are being charged up to \$170 per script.

**Please do NOT use the drug name Truvada® on your scripts. Instead, choose one of the alternatives below.**

[The ASHM Sub-Committee for Guidance on HIV Management](#) recommends that patients receiving Truvada® can transition to other combination medicines containing tenofovir disoproxil. These are: tenofovir disoproxil fumarate/emtricitabine (Apotex), tenofovir disoproxil maleate/emtricitabine (Mylan), and tenofovir disoproxil phosphate/emtricitabine (Tenofovir EMT GH). This recommendation is for the prevention of the acquisition of HIV in pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), and for the treatment of HIV in combination with other antiretrovirals as recommended by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

The listed alternatives are all indicated for PrEP on the PBS general schedule and are brand equivalent. See the PBS listings [here](#).





# Access to PrEP in New Zealand

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There are 3 ways to access HIV PrEP in New Zealand (NZ):

## 1. Publicly funded PrEP

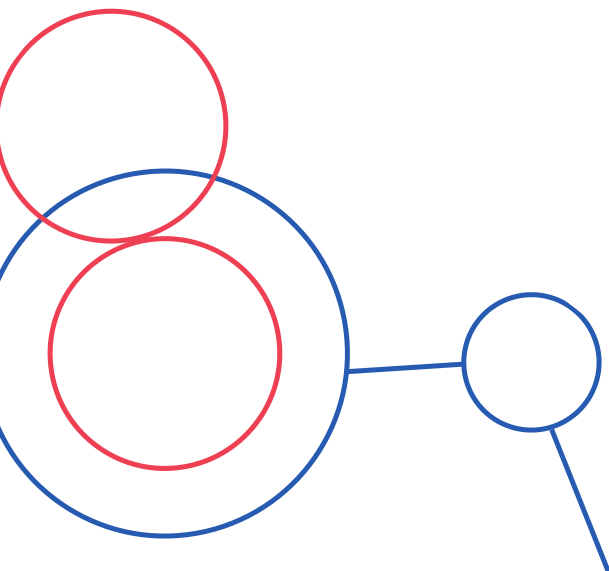
For people eligible for publicly funded health care, PrEP will be funded provided that they meet the NZ Pharmaceutical Management Agency (PHARMAC) funding criteria for emtricitabine with tenofovir disoproxil. Any relevant prescriber can write a script for PrEP, which can be taken to any pharmacy for dispensing. If PrEP is accessed this way, a \$5 co-payment at the pharmacy is made.

## 2. Private script for supply from pharmacy

Any doctor can write a private script for PrEP. Teva Pharma (New Zealand) Limited currently produces the brand stocked in NZ. Patients can have this script dispensed at a community pharmacy. The private script cost is higher than publicly funded PrEP; depending on pharmacy mark-up, each bottle of 30 pills will cost approximately NZD\$90-110. This option is generally used by people who are not eligible for publicly funded PrEP and do not feel comfortable using personal importation.

## 3. Through personal importation

If a person is not eligible for publicly funded PrEP, or finds the cost of purchasing PrEP locally too high, then another option is to purchase a generic version online from a reliable overseas supplier. A script from a clinician is still required before ordering online. Multiple overseas suppliers will supply PrEP for import into NZ at a range of costs.





## PrEP Resources and Training

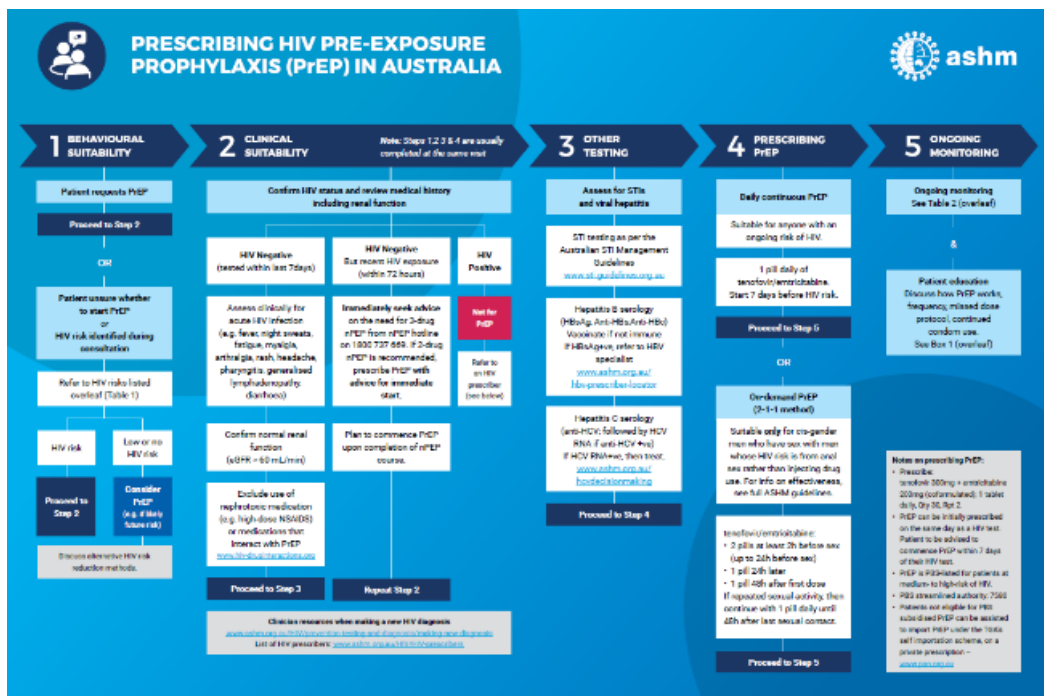
ASHM continues to support the workforce to ensure access to PrEP and best practice in guidelines, training and resources:

**Guidelines:** These guidelines provide essential recommendations to support clinicians in prescribing PrEP.

- [Australian PrEP Clinical Guidelines](#)
- [New Zealand PrEP Clinical Guidelines](#)

**PrEP Decision-Making Tools:** These 2-page Decision-Making tools summarise the key eligibility and recommended assessment criteria for primary care providers

- [Decision Making in PrEP National Tool](#)
- [Decision Making in PrEP NSW Tool](#)
- [Decision Making in PrEP WA Tool](#)



For more information about PrEP: [www.ashm.org.au/HIV/PrEP](http://www.ashm.org.au/HIV/PrEP)

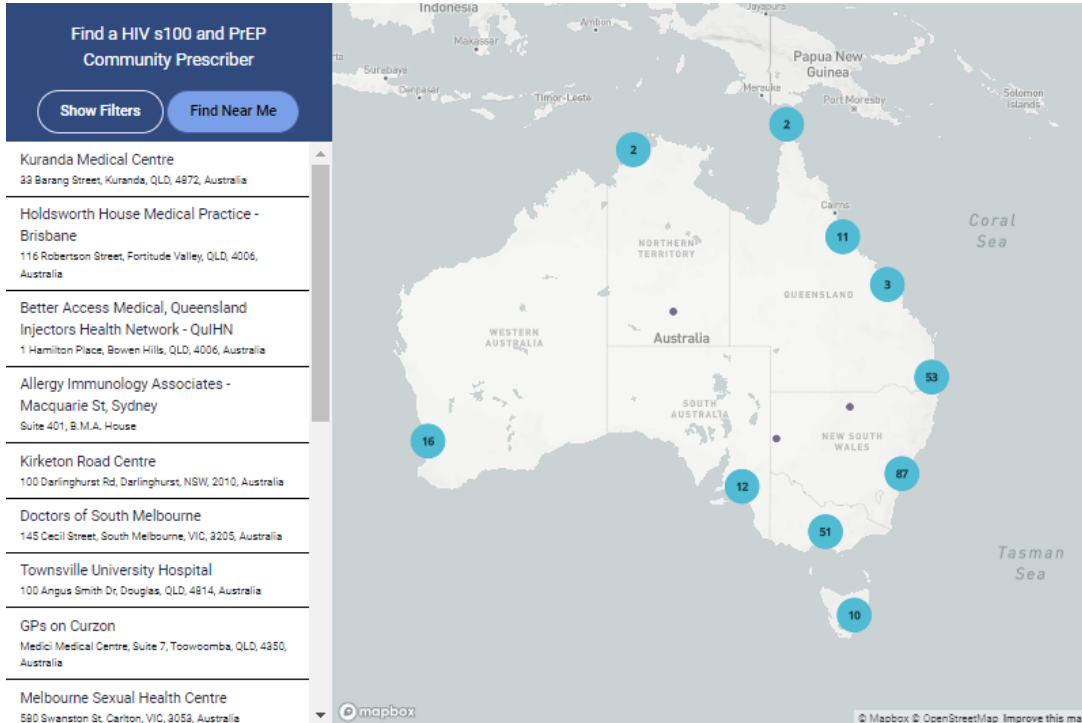
**PrEP Training:**

- **The Introduction to PrEP Prescribing Online Learning Module** is a free self-paced 1-hour module designed to provide clinicians with an understanding of PrEP, including patient suitability, prescribing, and ongoing monitoring. [ACCESS HERE](#)
- ASHM runs free online **HIV PrEP Update webinars**. Register your interest to ensure you are notified of upcoming webinars [HERE](#).

**ASHM PrEP Prescriber Map:**

[The ASHM PrEP Prescriber Map](#) is a useful resource that allows patients to find a local PrEP prescriber near them. Users can filter by bulk billing, telehealth, and language spoken.

To be listed on the map, log into the [MyASHM Portal](#) and add or update your prescribing locations as 'PrEP prescriber' under 'Practice Locations'.



**Find a HIV s100 and PrEP Community Prescriber**

Show Filters Find Near Me

<b>Kuranda Medical Centre</b> 33 Barang Street, Kuranda, QLD, 4872, Australia
<b>Holdsworth House Medical Practice - Brisbane</b> 116 Robertson Street, Fortitude Valley, QLD, 4006, Australia
<b>Better Access Medical, Queensland Injectors Health Network - QuIHN</b> 1 Hamilton Place, Bowen Hills, QLD, 4006, Australia
<b>Allergy Immunology Associates - Macquarie St, Sydney</b> Suite 401, B.M.A. House
<b>Kirketon Road Centre</b> 100 Darlinghurst Rd, Darlinghurst, NSW, 2010, Australia
<b>Doctors of South Melbourne</b> 145 Cecil Street, South Melbourne, VIC, 3205, Australia
<b>Townsville University Hospital</b> 100 Angus Smith Dr, Douglas, QLD, 4814, Australia
<b>GPs on Curzon</b> Medici Medical Centre, Suite 7, Toowoomba, QLD, 4250, Australia
<b>Melbourne Sexual Health Centre</b> 580 Swanston St, Carlton, VIC, 3058, Australia

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## Information for PrEP Users

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Find links to further information:

- [PrEP Client Letter](#) – a letter to take to your GP when requesting PrEP.
- [ASHM PrEP Prescriber Map](#) - find an HIV PrEP prescriber near you. This map displays prescribers who consented to be publicly listed and is not a comprehensive list of all PrEP providers/prescribers.
- [PrEP'd for Change](#) – information and support
- [PrEP access NOW \(PAN\)](#) - information and support
- [Get PrEP'd](#) - information and support

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact: [HIVprescriber@ashm.org.au](mailto:HIVprescriber@ashm.org.au)

