

# HIV PrEP vs PEP vs DoxyPEP: What's the Difference?

*Prophylaxis = "Action that is taken in order to prevent disease" (Oxford Learner's Dictionary)*

|                                |  <b>HIV PrEP</b>                                                                          |  <b>HIV PEP</b>                                                                                                                                  |  <b>DoxyPEP</b>                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Stands for</b>              | HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis                                                                                                                                               | HIV post-exposure prophylaxis                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Doxycycline post-exposure prophylaxis                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>What it prevents</b>        | HIV                                                                                                                                                                        | HIV                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Chlamydia & syphilis; gonorrhea*                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>How it works</b>            | Medication taken <b>before</b> a potential exposure to prevent HIV<br>                    | Medication taken <b>after</b> a potential exposure to prevent HIV<br>                                                                            | Medication <b>taken</b> after a potential exposure to prevent bacterial sexually transmitted infections for one dose<br>                                                                     |
| <b>When to take it</b>         | Daily, every 2 months, every 6 months, or as needed depending on the type of PrEP prescribed for you                                                                       | As soon as possible, up to 72 hours after possible HIV exposure, for 28 days                                                                                                                                                        | Within 72 hours after condomless sex. No more than one dose per 24 hours                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>What options are there?</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oral daily pills</li> <li>• Oral pills as needed</li> <li>• Every 2-month injection</li> <li>• Every 6-month injection</li> </ul> | Oral daily pills for 28 days                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 200 mg of doxycycline taken after condomless sex. Take as needed no more than once a day                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Who can use it</b>          | Options for <b>everyone</b> include oral daily PrEP and injectable PrEP. Intermittent/as-needed dosing currently only studied for MSM**                                    | <b>Everyone</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Current research recommends for those assigned <b>male at birth</b> who have sex with others assigned male at birth                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Considerations</b>          | Does not protect against other sexually transmitted infections                                                                                                             | After completing a course of HIV PEP, consider transitioning to HIV PrEP<br>Use of doxyPEP as needed may continue while on HIV PEP or PrEP<br> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not prevent HIV</li> <li>• Not a backup or alternative to HIV PrEP or HIV PEP</li> <li>• Not a replacement for treatment after known exposure</li> <li>• Not a replacement for medical evaluation if you have symptoms</li> </ul> |

\*Less effective against gonorrhea.

\*\*MSM=men who have sex with men. There is evidence that 2-1-1 PrEP provides protection for gay and bisexual cis-gender men who have anal sex. We don't know if it works for heterosexual men and women, transgender people, or people who inject drugs. Although guidelines have information on how to correctly use 2-1-1 PrEP, it is not recommended by the CDC or US FDA at this time.

## Resources:

<https://courses.denverptc.org/resource.php?id=604>  
[https://courses.nnptc.org/resource\\_detail.html?id=1910](https://courses.nnptc.org/resource_detail.html?id=1910)  
<https://www.denverptc.org/doxy-pep-resources/>