

October 22, 2021

Dear Health Care Provider:

Re: New – Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis on Manitoba Drug Formulary, Effective Fall of 2021

Manitoba is announcing the addition of HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) indication for the drug emtricitabine (FTC)/tenofovir (TDF) 200 mg/300 mg, to the provincial drug program formularies. This enables patients enrolled in Pharmacare or who are covered by Employment and Income Assistance and who meet the provincial eligibility criteria to have financial support to access HIV PrEP. Further information is available in the Manitoba Drug Benefits and Interchangeability Formulary Bulletin located at:

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/mdbif/bulletins.html>

PrEP prevents HIV infection by preventing replication of the virus. PrEP should be taken daily as prescribed to generate sufficient levels of the drug within the blood and tissues to stop multiplication of the virus and establishment of infection. The efficacy of HIV PrEP is highly dependent on adherence to the regimen. Note: HIV PrEP will be Part 2 Exception Drug Status. 'On-demand HIV PrEP' is not recommended or covered under provincial drug programs. The specific reimbursement criteria is detailed in the Manitoba Drug Benefits and Interchangeability Formulary Bulletin found here: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/mdbif/bulletins.html>

HIV PrEP Prescribers: Prescribers of HIV PrEP must review the *Eligibility Criteria for Manitoba HIV PrEP* and the *Manitoba HIV Program HIV Prevention Guidelines* (see below for links) and must register using the *Manitoba HIV PrEP Provider Registration Form* located at:

https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/docs/prep_prescriber_regform.pdf

Patient/Client Eligibility: Eligible patients/clients are people who are HIV negative and at high, ongoing risk of acquiring HIV. PrEP isn't needed for people who are in a stable, closed relationship with a person living with HIV who is getting treatment and has very low levels of HIV virus. For specific and fulsome information and assessment tools for PrEP patient eligibility, please refer to the *Eligibility Criteria for Manitoba HIV PrEP* located at:

https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/docs/prep_eligibility_criteria.pdf

PrEP Clinical Guidance: The Manitoba HIV Program, in partnership with Manitoba Health and Seniors Care, has developed *Manitoba HIV Program HIV Prevention Guidelines* detailing initial and ongoing assessments and support recommended for the care of a patient/client receiving PrEP. These are available at <https://mbhiv.ca/guidelines>

Save the date! December 8th 12:00 pm, join the Manitoba HIV Program for a webinar introducing the program's new HIV Testing and Prevention Guidelines. Learn who needs to be tested for HIV and when, as well as important news and protocols in Manitoba about PrEP and PEP. Registration for this and other HIV testing and prevention education events for primary care providers can be found at <https://mbhiv.ca/education-training/>

Please share this information with all relevant colleagues in your facility or clinic.

Sincerely,

"Original signed by"

Richard Baydack, PhD
Director
Communicable Disease Control

Santina Lee, MD, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health
Communicable Disease Control