

New Jersey Department of Health PrEP Program Protocol

HIV Testing

Eligibility for PrEP requires that an individual is HIV negative – meaning free of HIV infection. PrEP is an intervention that can only be used by HIV negative individuals. Because of this requirement, the first step to initiate PrEP is an HIV test. At risk individuals can receive HIV testing in a variety of community-based and clinical settings. These individuals may be referred to the PrEP Counselor by:

- Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) from the New Jersey Department of Health
- Community-based Organizations (CBOs) that target high risk populations
- Syringe Access Programs (SAPs)
- Non-targeted Counseling and Testing Sites (CTS)
- STD Clinics
- HIV Clinics
- Other clinical settings (e.g., primary medical care)

In some cases, at-risk individuals may seek testing services on their own, directly from a PrEP Counselor. Therefore, not only should a PrEP Counselor receive PrEP Counselor training, but training to be an HIV Test Counselor as well.

HIV Negative Results

Clients who receive a negative test result will be screened by all HIV Test Counselors via a brief risk assessment tool to determine if clients are at a significantly high risk of acquiring HIV, who are then referred to as high-risk negatives (HRN). If clients are identified as HRN following the risk assessment, they should be referred by the HIV Test Counselor to a trained PrEP Counselor. The PrEP Counselor provides clients with an overview of PrEP and conducts a second, more in-depth risk and PrEP suitability assessment. Following this assessment, individuals who are identified as appropriate and ready to begin PrEP are referred by the PrEP Counselor to a PrEP prescribing clinician. In some cases, clients may not appear to be suitable for PrEP based on their answers to the suitability assessment, yet may still insist on seeing the PrEP Prescriber. In cases such as this, clients should be referred to a PrEP Prescriber regardless of the suitability assessment results.

The PrEP Prescriber may be located in the same location as the PrEP Counselor, or may be located in an external clinical setting. PrEP Counselors should make an appointment with the PrEP Prescriber for the client while he or she is still in the PrEP counseling session. Clients who are not HRN following the PrEP Counselor's assessment, or who may be HRN yet self-opt out of PrEP, may be referred to appropriate CBOs for additional HIV prevention services.

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HIV Positive Results

Clients who test positive for HIV are immediately referred to HIV Patient Navigators located in HIV clinics where they can be enrolled into HIV medical care. These clients are **not** candidates for PrEP, and should be encouraged to refer their sexual/needle sharing partners either back to the HIV Test Counselor or elsewhere for testing.

Tested partners of HIV positive clients will either be HIV positive or HIV negative

HIV positive partners will be referred to HIV Patient Navigators and enrolled into HIV medical care. HIV negative partners will be screened to determine if they are at a significantly high risk of acquiring HIV). If clients are identified to be HRN as a result of the risk assessment, they should be referred by the HIV Test Counselor to a trained PrEP Counselor. The PrEP Counselor provides clients with an overview of PrEP and conducts a second, more in-depth risk and PrEP suitability assessment. Following this assessment, individuals who are identified as appropriate and ready to begin PrEP are referred by the PrEP Counselor to a PrEP prescribing clinician. In some cases, clients may not appear to be suitable for PrEP based on their answers to the suitability assessment, yet may still insist on seeing the PrEP Prescriber. In cases such as this, clients should be referred to a PrEP Prescriber regardless of the suitability assessment results.

New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) PrEP Program Protocol Logic Model

DIS = Disease Intervention Specialists (NJDOH Partner Services staff)

CBOs = Community-based organizations

CTS = Counseling and testing sites, non-targeted

HRN = High-risk negatives

