

Role of Pharmacists in PrEP Uptake & Prescribing

Krista Hein, PharmD, AAHIVP, Safeway Pharmacy

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I have no disclosures.

Objectives

- Describe ways pharmacists can help end the HIV epidemic.
- Discuss ways pharmacists can increase the uptake of PrEP.
- Describe collaborative practice agreement, prescriptive authority, and provider status.
- Discuss current and upcoming state laws that allow pharmacists to prescribe PrEP.
- Describe examples of pharmacist PrEP clinics across the U.S.

Pharmacists' Role in Ending the HIV Epidemic

Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America has four strategies to end the epidemic¹. Pharmacists can play a vital role in each strategy to help America reach this goal.

Allowing pharmacists to prescribe PrEP utilizes two of these strategies: diagnose and prevent.



Image: <https://www.hiv.gov/federal-response/ending-the-hiv-epidemic/key-strategies>

Pharmacist's Role in PrEP Uptake

- Risk identification through STI prescription(s) prescribed
 - Educate patient on risk of HIV and risk reduction behaviors
 - Educate patient on option of PrEP
 - Refer patient to PrEP services
- Patient counseling on importance of adherence, potential adverse effects and administration
- Familiar with prescription billing
 - Coordination of benefits billing
 - Ability to split bill to primary and secondary coverage such as ADAP programs or manufacturer copay assistance cards
 - Ability to assist with prior authorizations

Pharmacist's Role in PrEP Uptake cont.

- Familiar with patient assistance programs available to help with cost of medications
 - Manufacturer copay assistant cards
 - Patient assistance programs for uninsured patients
 - Ready, Set, PrEP
 - Manufacturer programs
 - Foundation programs
- PrEP prescribed by a pharmacist
 - Collaborative practice agreement (CPA)
 - Prescriptive authority based on state laws
 - Provider status for pharmacists

Pharmacist Training

- Continuing Education
 - Some states require CEs related to HIV for license renewal
- Residency:
 - PGY-1: Program builds on PharmD education to develop clinical pharmacists to care for patients with a variety of conditions³.
 - PGY-2: Program builds further clinical development of a pharmacist in a specialized practice area⁴.
- Board Certifications⁵
 - Pharmacists can earn a board certification to show they are specialized in a specific area of pharmacy
 - Ex: infectious disease, ambulatory care, pharmacotherapy, etc
 - Require specific guidelines for each certification:
 - Residency (PGY-1 or 2 or both)/clinical experience and pass exam
 - Recertification every 7 years

Pharmacist Training cont.

- HIV Credentialed Pharmacist⁶
 - HIV Specialized pharmacists can earn the AAHIVP credential through American Academy of HIV Medicine
 - Requirements of AAHIVP Credential
 - Pharmacist license
 - 45 CE credits in the last 36 months related to HIV or HCV
 - Care for 25 people living with HIV or participate in the Academy Mentoring Program in the last 36 months
 - Pass exam
 - Renew every 3 years

How is a pharmacist able to prescribe PrEP?

- Collaborative Practice Agreement (CPA)
- Prescriptive authority
- Provider status
- State specific laws

Collaborative Practice Agreement (CPA)

Agreement between a pharmacist and an authorized prescriber that gives the pharmacist prescriptive rights according to a protocol agreed upon by the collaborating prescriber⁹.

- CDC supports CPAs
 - Advancing Team-Based Care Through Collaborative Practice Agreements: A Resource and Implementation Guide for Adding Pharmacists to the Care Team¹⁰
- CPA requirements vary by state

Prescriptive Authority

Prescriptive authority is needed for pharmacists to prescribe medications to patients without supervision. States are working to change pharmacists' scope of practice to include prescriptive authority for certain medications or categories⁸.

- Types of prescriptive authority⁸:
 - Statewide protocol
 - Commonly seen with immunizations and naloxone prescribing
 - Unrestricted category-specific authority
 - Some states are moving into this direction. Utilizing a template protocol allows for updates in clinical guidelines to be implemented into the protocol without having to update the law.

Provider Status

According to the Social Security Act, **pharmacists are not listed as providers** under Medicare Part B. Many commercial and state plans refer to this legal document as reason to exclude pharmacists from compensation for their clinical services⁷.

- Pharmacists need to be accepted as providers.
- Allows you to bill a patient's insurance company for clinical services provided.
- If a pharmacist cannot bill a patient's insurance, then cost of the service falls on the patient.
- Provider status for pharmacists can help increase access to care.

Changing the Law

- States can pass bills giving pharmacists prescribing rights and/or provider status. Some states will lump multiple drug categories together in one bill and others will pass each one individually.
- Some states are including language that allows pharmacists to be reimbursed at the same or similar rate of a physician and prohibiting insurance companies from denying reimbursement.
- Giving pharmacists prescriptive authority and provider status allows them to practice at the full scope of their license.

States with laws allowing RPh to prescribe PrEP

	California ¹¹	Colorado ¹³	Virginia ^{12,26}	Oregon ^{14,27}
Law	SB 159	HB 20-1061	HB 2079	HB 2958
Status of Law	Signed Oct 2019	Signed 2020	Signed March 2021	Signed Sept 2021
RPh Requirements	Complete program approved by Board of Pharmacy	PharmD or at least 5 yrs of experience, carry liability insurance, complete ACPE program approved by Board of Pharmacy	TBD	TBD
Prescriptive Rights	RPh can prescribe up to a 60 day supply once every 2 years	No prescriptive limitations	TBD	No prescriptive limitations listed
Insurance Coverage	Medicaid reimbursed at 85% of physician	Requires reimbursement for pharmacist provided service	Requires reimbursement for pharmacist provided service	Requires reimbursement for pharmacist provided service

States with laws allowing RPh to prescribe PrEP

	Kentucky ^{28,29}	Maine ³⁰	Missouri ³¹	Nevada ³²
Law	201 KAR 2:380	SB 1115	HB 370	SB 325
Status of Law	Signed Dec 2020	Signed June 2021	Signed May 2021	Signed June 2021
RPh Requirements	Complete ACPE approved training	Complete program approved by Board of Pharmacy	TBD	Complete program approved by Board of Pharmacy
Prescriptive Rights	Depends on prescriber approved protocol	RPh can prescribe up to a 60 day supply once every 2 years	RPh can prescribe up to a 30 day supply once every 2 years	No prescriptive limitations listed
Insurance Coverage	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	Requires reimbursement for pharmacist provided service

States with laws allowing RPh to prescribe PrEP

	New York^{33,34}	Utah
Law	A02198 SB 728	58-17b-627.
Status of Law	Introduced Jan 2021	Effective May 2021
RPh Requirements	Complete training approved by Department of Health	TBD
Prescriptive Rights	RPh can prescribe up to a 60 day supply once every 2 years	TBD
Insurance Coverage	Not specified	Not specified

Pharmacist PrEP led clinics across the U.S.

- Kelley-Ross Pharmacy “One Step PrEP”¹⁵⁻¹⁷
 - First pharmacist led PrEP clinic in the U.S. (Founded 2015)
 - Utilizes CPA with a physician to offer service
 - Labs and dispensing of PrEP all in one place
 - Pharmacists are phlebotomy licensed
 - Pharmacists are recognized as providers in Washington
- Mission Wellness Pharmacy^{18,19}
 - Utilized CPA with San Francisco Department of Public Health
 - Offers testing and labs at no cost
 - Point of care HIV and HCV test
 - Phlebotomist on site

Pharmacist PrEP led clinics across the U.S.

- **UIHC PrEP Clinic^{20,21}**
 - CPA with physician that allows pharmacist to order labs and prescribe PrEP
- **Iowa TelePrEP²²⁻²⁴**
 - CPA that allows pharamcists to prescribe PrEP via telemedicine
 - Clients can sign up or be referred (ex: UIHC PrEP Clinic)
 - Patient has to get labs done and insurance is billed if possible
 - PrEP can be delivered or sent to pharmacy of choice
- **Gateway Apothecary²⁵**
 - CPA with Washington University in St. Louis
 - Pharmacist conducts follow up visits and nurse is on site to complete labs.

Pharmacists' Role in Ending the HIV Epidemic

Pharmacists through PrEP prescribing can increase access to prevention services which can help lead to the end of the HIV epidemic.



Image: <https://www.hiv.gov/federal-response/ending-the-hiv-epidemic/key-strategies>

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