

37. PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS FOR MINORS

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Purpose: Philadelphia FIGHT was founded on the principles of providing accessible, high-quality HIV care and HIV prevention during the early HIV healthcare crisis and is committed to ending the HIV epidemic. Truvada for HIV Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) has been proven highly effective and safe for HIV prevention.

Policy: Philadelphia FIGHT is committed to providing PrEP to young people under 18. If appropriate, we will try to obtain parental consent before prescribing PrEP. However, if it is not possible to obtain parental consent for logistical or safety reasons, we will prescribe PrEP, if there is a 1) a demonstrated need for PrEP as HIV prevention, 2) the patient is a clinically appropriate candidate for PrEP, and 3) we believe that the patient's health is at risk without PrEP. PrEP will only be provided to minors through the Y-HEP Health Center.

I. General

Truvada for PrEP was approved by the FDA on July 16, 2012 for use in adults at high risk of HIV acquisition. Truvada for the treatment of HIV was approved for use in persons over 12 years of age in 2004.¹

Philadelphia FIGHT Community Health Centers is committed to offering needed medical treatment to all patients who present to our clinics. In some instances, young people may be unable to or unwilling to obtain parental consent to access treatment. Reasons for the aforementioned include, but are not limited to: ongoing emotional, physical, or mental abuses, the threat of abuse, having been kicked out of the home of their parent or guardian and are living on the street. Others are emancipated and do not require parental consent. Given the critical need to provide confidential health care to young people, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has created the following classes of minor where parental consent can be waived in order to provide the necessary care to the patient:

1. *If the patient is receiving sexual and reproductive health services (except abortion)*
2. *If the patient is receiving substance abuse treatment*
3. *If the patient is receiving mental health treatment*
4. *If the patient is receiving treatment and disclosure is not in the best interest if the patient because the disclosure would subject the minor to abuse and/or neglect*
5. *If the patient is receiving treatment and is a high school graduate*

¹ http://gilead.com/~media/files/pdfs/medicines/hiv/truvada/truvada_pi.pdf

6. *If the patient is receiving treatment and is or has ever been married*
7. *If the patient is receiving treatment and is pregnant (presently or previously)*
8. *If the patient is receiving treatment and is emancipated (has left parents/guardians household by agreement or demand)²*

II. Eligibility

All patients of Philadelphia FIGHT Community Health Centers who may be at risk for HIV over the age of 13 are potentially eligible for PrEP. Patients under the age of 18 years of age are subject to the same eligibility criteria safety monitoring for PrEP as those patients over the age of 18 years of age.

The criteria set forth by the CDC outlines that a patient is eligible for PrEP if they have:

1. A documented negative HIV test result before prescribing PrEP
2. No signs/symptoms of acute HIV infection
3. Normal renal function; no contraindicated medications
4. Documented hepatitis B virus infection and vaccination status³

Patients who are prescribed PrEP will be monitored at least every 3 months to ensure that patients remain clinically eligible for PrEP.

III. Procedure

- A. Patients under the age of 18 who seek to receive PrEP at Philadelphia FIGHT will complete all necessary intake paperwork, including:
 1. Philadelphia FIGHT Community Health Centers Consent for Treatment and Release of Health Information
 - b. If a patient does not have parental consent, they must fall into one of the aforementioned categories that would allow the minor to seek care without parental consent.
 - c. In addition, every attempt will be made to obtain parental consent prior to PrEP initiation even if a patient fits into one of the aforementioned categories, unless parental consent cannot be obtained either for logistical (no parent/guardian involved in patient's life and care) or safety reasons (risk of physical or emotional abuse, risk of neglect, etc, with disclosure of desire to start PrEP or discussion of sexuality with parent/guardian).
 2. Patient Information Forms
 3. Declaration of Income forms
- B. Patients will be seen for a medical visit by a clinician who will determine clinical eligibility for PrEP

² Philadelphia FIGHT Community Health Centers, Consent for Treatment and Release of Health Information. Board Approved 9/17/2015.

³ www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/PrEPguidelines2014.pdf

- C. If patient is clinically eligible for PrEP and interested in PrEP, a clinician will order the required PrEP initiation labs and the patient will be sent for blood work in the laboratory. PrEP initiation labs include:
 - 1. Fourth generation HIV antibody/antigen test
 - 2. Complete Metabolic Panel (CMP)
 - 3. Hepatitis Panel (A,B,C)
 - 4. GC/CT Rectal, Pharyngeal and Urine
 - 5. Urine trichomonas
 - 6. RPR
- D. If uninsured or effectively uninsured, the patient will meet with Philadelphia FIGHT Community Health Center staff for medication access support. If a patient is uninsured (or effectively uninsured) they will work with a Benefits Coordinator to apply for CHIP, and Philadelphia FIGHT will cover the cost of the medication for up to 2 months.
- E. Patients will be counseled on safer sex practices and on the importance of medication adherence.
- F. Patients will pick up their medication every week, every other week, or monthly (due to be determined by patient and provider) at the Y-HEP Health Center.
- G. Patients will be monitored at least every 3 months to determine persistent eligibility for PrEP, to determine whether parental consent could feasibly and safely be obtained on an ongoing basis, to have repeat HIV and safety lab screening, and to access medication refills.

Philadelphia FIGHT Board Approved on: 05.20.2015