

CHECKLIST 4: PrEP Initiation

Confirm PrEP eligibility	• Discuss HIV risk, including self-reported risk and history of potential exposure, and assess for signs and symptoms of acute HIV infection. • If exposure occurred within ≤72 hours, recommend and initiate PEP before PrEP.
Obtain medical history	• Assess for contraindications or factors that may affect PrEP choice: HIV infection, HBV infection, kidney impairment, osteoporosis, potential drug-drug interactions, current or planned pregnancy.
Order baseline lab testing and arrange for specimen collection	• HIV 1/2 Ag/Ab combination immunoassay (for same-day initiation, perform rapid and lab-based HIV test; ensure lab results available within 1 week of PrEP start) • HIV RNA assay • Serum creatinine and calculated CrCl • Serum liver enzymes • HBV and HCV serologies • HAV serology (MSM and if at risk) • Urinalysis • Syphilis testing • Gonorrhea and chlamydia NAATs (all potential exposure sites) • Pregnancy test (if of child-bearing capacity)
Review PrEP options and assist individual in making informed choice	• Explain purpose, benefits, potential risks (including possible adverse effects), and time to protection. • Discuss available options, including factors that may influence regimen choice. • If CAB LA is chosen, decide whether to use the oral medication lead-in. • If on-demand oral PrEP is chosen, ensure understanding of 2-1-1 or 2-1-1-1 dosing.
Provide education	• Explain symptoms of acute HIV infection and recommended response, including who to contact and how. • Outline adherence requirements: dosing, lab testing, visit schedule. • Discuss strategies to address modifiable barriers to access and adherence. • Explain possible adverse effects, suggestions for management, and when and how to request assistance.
Counsel on harm reduction	• Discuss STI prevention and access to contraceptives and needle exchange. • Offer doxy-PEP to individuals at risk of bacterial STIs. • Link to support services as needed.
Arrange for follow-up	• Obtain and document contact information for remote follow-up (phone, text, email). • Review potential adverse effects and how to manage, including when and how to contact a care provider. • Schedule follow-up appointments, including injection appointments.
Abbreviations: Ag/Ab, antigen/antibody; CAB LA, long-acting injectable cabotegravir; CrCl, creatinine clearance; doxy-PEP, doxycycline post-exposure prophylaxis; HAV, hepatitis A virus; HBV, hepatitis B virus; HCV, hepatitis C virus; MSM, men who have sex with men; NAAT, nucleic acid amplification test; PrEP, pre-exposure prophylaxis; STI, sexually transmitted infection.	