



Department
of Health

Medicaid NYRx

NYRx Education & Outreach HIV/ARV Newsletter

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March 13, 2026

Highlights

AIDS Institute Faith Communities Project

The AIDS Institute [Faith Communities Project](#) was created in 2001 in recognition of the role that faith communities play in the lives of New York State residents impacted by HIV.

The New York State (NYS) Department of Health (DOH) AIDS Institute works with faith-based and community-based organizations to meet the HIV prevention needs of individuals, families, and communities across various racial and ethnic groups, cultures, and languages — especially communities of color.



The goal of the project is to foster partnership, awareness, and increase involvement in HIV prevention and health care efforts. For more information, see the [Guide to HIV/AIDS Education in Faith Communities](#) and the CDC page on [health disparities](#).

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Questions and Answers About HIV/AIDS to Share With Your Patients

What Is HIV?

HIV is the **Human Immunodeficiency Virus**, a virus that damages a person's immune system.

How Do HIV Infections Occur and What Can Be Done To Prevent Them?

HIV is a sexually transmitted infection (STI), so using internal or external condoms for every sexual encounter offers protection from HIV and other STIs.

When Will Evotaz Discontinuation Begin?

On September 30, 2024, Bristol Myers Squibb announced a business decision to discontinue Evotaz (atazanavir/cobicistat) tablets. Global manufacturing is estimated to cease beginning in April 2026.

At this time, the drug supply may be limited. Notification has been provided to prescribers who have prescribed Evotaz for a New York Medicaid member. For more information, see [NYRx Formulary Update: Evotaz](#).

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What Medications Can Prevent HIV?

- **Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)** is medication that, when taken as directed, can prevent HIV.
 - Oral PrEP is known by the brand names Truvada or Descovy.
 - Injectable PrEP is known by the brand names Apretude or Yeztugo.
 - For more information, see [NYRx Drug Class Coverage Overview: HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Agents](#)
- **Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)** is medication taken to prevent HIV infection after potential exposure.
 - PEP medication works best if started as soon as possible, but not later than 72 hours after possible HIV exposure.
 - There are several medications indicated for PEP. For more information, see [NYRx Drug Class Coverage Overview: HIV Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Agents](#)
- **Treatment as Prevention (TasP)** is prescribed to people living with HIV to reduce the amount of virus in their blood.

What Is U=U?

U=U stands for “Undetectable = Untransmittable.” This means that people living with HIV who are on antiretroviral therapy (ART) (as prescribed) and who maintain an undetectable viral load, cannot transmit the virus to others during sex. When the HIV viral load is undetectable, there is too little virus for an infection to occur. Even though someone on ART is still HIV positive, HIV transmission via sex is no longer a risk.

For more information, see [NYRx Notice to Prescribers: Coverage of Anti-Retroviral \(ARV\) Agents for HIV Treatment and HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis \(PrEP\)](#).



What Other Ways Can HIV Occur and What Can People Do to Prevent Infection?

- If people inject drugs or other substances into their bodies, they should only use new syringes or works (spoons, cotton, bottle caps, and other items used for injecting) to decrease the risk of contracting HIV
- People who can become pregnant and have untreated HIV can pass the virus to their babies during pregnancy, delivery, or breastfeeding. They should consult their doctors to find treatment that is right for them.
- If a health care worker is exposed to HIV by a needlestick injury with a syringe or other sharp item at work, they must report the incident. They will be provided with PEP medication to prevent the chance of HIV.

What Is “Safer Sex”?

When patients know how HIV and other sexually transmitted infections spread, they can take precautions to reduce the risk of infection.

Guidance for safer sex includes:

- Always use an internal or external condom during sex, making sure of proper use.
- Ask sexual partners about their HIV status before having sex. If living with HIV, find out whether their viral load is “undetectable.”
- Take PrEP (as prescribed). PrEP helps reduce the chance of developing HIV by protecting patients and their partners from contracting the virus.

For information, resources, and support, contact The National AIDS Hotline at:

+1 800-342-AIDS (2437, English)

+1 800-344-7432 (Spanish)

+1 800-243-7889 (TTY service for the deaf)

Source: New York State Department of Health. (2023, January). *Responding to the Call: A Guide to HIV/AIDS Education in Faith Communities*. On Common Ground: AIDS Institute’s Faith Communities Project. <https://www.health.ny.gov/publications/9256.pdf>.

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Quiz

Myth Versus Fact

Test your knowledge — True (T) or False (F)?

- T F** 1. People can get HIV by being in the same room with a person with HIV.
- T F** 2. HIV affects the body’s ability to fight infection.
- T F** 3. HIV is passed from one person to another by sneezing.
- T F** 4. People can get HIV from sharing a soda.
- T F** 5. HIV is caused by a virus.
- T F** 6. There is a shot (vaccine) that will prevent HIV.
- T F** 7. People can tell when someone has HIV by what they look like.
- T F** 8. A person can take medication to prevent HIV.

Were you correct?

Scroll down

to find out!

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Publications

Click to access [NYRx, the Medicaid Pharmacy Program](#) website for these publications and more.

- Billing & Coordination of Benefits
- Drug Class Coverage Overviews
- Newsletters
- Notifications
- Prior Authorization Information

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Quicklinks



[NYRx Preferred Drug List](#)



[NYRx Preferred Drug Quick List](#)



[NYRx eMedNY Formulary File](#)



[NYRx Brand Less Than Generic Program Updates](#)



[NYRx Preferred Diabetic Supply Program](#)

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About the NYRx E&O Team

The NYRx E&O team serves as a liaison between all stakeholders and NYRx to support care coordination. Clinical liaisons are trained to support and help solve complex pharmacy cases for:



- Managed Care Plans
- Case workers and NYS agencies
- Prescribers and pharmacies with questions regarding NYRx drug coverage, prior approval requirements, and NYRx enrolled pharmacies
- Complex care coordination for populations such as HIV/AIDS, Hemophilia, Foster Care Children, Serious Mental Illness, Substance Use Disorder, and Hepatitis C

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Weekly Webinars

To register, please visit the [NYRx Education & Outreach](#) website.

[Prescriber Webinar](#)

Mondays

12 PM – 1 PM ET

[Pharmacy Webinar](#)

Wednesdays

12 PM – 1 PM ET

[NYRx, the Medicaid Pharmacy Program](#)

Fridays

12 PM – 1 PM ET

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Office Hour Q&A Pop-In

Mondays and Wednesdays
12 PM – 1 PM ET

[Click here to join.](#)



Meet with the Team

The NYRx E&O team meets with various 29-I agencies throughout the month. Would you like to request a meeting with us? Click [here](#).

NYRx E&O Call Center

1-833-967-7310

Monday – Friday
8 AM – 5 PM ET
Excludes Holidays



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Quiz Answer: 1, 3, 4, 6, and 7 are false. 2, 5, 8 are true.

Content correct as of issue date.