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**CONTRA COSTA
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August 2018

Dear Contra Costa County Provider,

PrEP is a pill taken daily to prevent HIV infection and has been shown to decrease a patient's risk of HIV acquisition by up to 92%. PrEP before risk. **PEP** is a combination of pills taken daily for 28 days to prevent HIV infection after a high-risk exposure to HIV. PEP after risk.

The Contra Costa Public Health Department supports the use of Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) as a first line intervention for individuals at high risk of acquiring HIV. This biomedical prevention measure may prove to be the key in our effort to end the epidemic. Your patients may be at risk for contracting HIV. However, you have an important role in preventing that from happening and we are here to help you help your patients!

We recommend these four core HIV prevention practices:

1. **Take a thorough sexual history** from all patients as part of routine medical care.
2. **Screen and treat sexually active patients** for STIs based on sexual history and clinical guidelines. Empiric treatment is often indicated.
3. **Talk about PrEP and PEP** with HIV-negative patients at ongoing risk of exposure and HIV-positive patients who may have HIV-negative partners.
4. **Prescribe PrEP and PEP** according to clinical guidelines. For patients who are uninsured or need assistance, please contact our PrEP Navigator at (925) 313-6771.

See attached for Contra Costa County's PrEP Guidelines and recommended billing codes for PrEP and PEP related services.

For more information on PrEP, please visit <https://cchealth.org/hiv/prep/providers.php>.

Sincerely,

Chris Farnitano, MD
HIV Specialist, Deputy County Health Officer
Contra Costa Health Services

