



More Infectious Disease Docs Are Prescribing PrEP

October 19, 2015

The proportion of infectious disease (ID) physicians who report prescribing Truvada (tenofovir/emtricitabine) as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) apparently grew substantially between 2013 and 2014, [aidsmap](#) reports. Meanwhile, most ID physicians recommend HIV-positive patients start antiretroviral (ARV) treatment soon after diagnosis, regardless of CD4 count.

Publishing their findings in *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, researchers conducted a survey of clinician members of the Infectious Disease Society of America's Emerging Infections Network. A total of 573 physicians responded to the May 2014 survey, for a 48 percent response rate. Out of this group, 415 clinicians (72 percent) were HIV specialists.

Thirty-two percent of the respondents reported ever prescribing PrEP. This is a considerable increase compared with a [June 2013](#) survey of the physician network, in which just 9 percent said they had ever prescribed Truvada as a prevention method to HIV-negative patients.

In the 2014 survey, 80 percent of the respondents said they would recommend PrEP to the HIV-negative partner of a patient living with HIV who had a detectable viral load, given that the couple inconsistently used condoms together. Thirty-three percent of the clinicians said they endorsed PrEP for the HIV-negative partner if the partner with HIV had an undetectable viral load.

Eighty-seven percent of the respondents said they typically recommend HIV-positive patients start ARVs soon after diagnosis. Eleven percent said they waited until a patient's CD4s were below 500, and 2 percent waited until CD4s dropped below 350.

Eighty percent of the clinicians said they offered sterile needles to HIV-negative injection drug user (IDU) patients. Sixty-eight percent said they routinely offered opioid substitution therapy. Forty-two percent believed that PrEP should be routinely offered to IDUs with HIV. Twenty-four percent said they felt adequately prepared to prescribe PrEP to this population.

To read the [aidsmap](#) article, [click here](#).

To read the study abstract, [click here](#).

© 2026 Smart + Strong All Rights Reserved.

<http://beta.docker.poz.com/article/PrEP-ID-docs-27920-7751>