



The Importance of Pharmacists

They play a key role in HIV services.

March 30, 2026 By HIV.gov

Pharmacists have long been trusted health care providers for the communities they serve, but today, their role is more vital than ever. From providing everyday health guidance to supporting HIV prevention and treatment, pharmacists are helping expand the reach of critical services and are building healthier, more connected communities.

For many people, especially those in rural areas or neighborhoods with limited health care options, pharmacists are often the most accessible health care professionals. Whether it's answering health questions, offering immunizations or comanaging chronic conditions, pharmacists are embedded in the daily lives of the people they serve.

In the context of HIV, pharmacists play a crucial role by:

- Expanding access to HIV testing and prevention tools;
- Serving as trusted bridges to doctors, clinics and public health programs;
- Creating strategies for medication adherence;
- Helping people understand HIV treatment plans, lab reports and procedures.

These efforts go beyond dispensing medicine. It's about meeting people where they are, empowering them to take control of their health and improving health outcomes nationwide. By fostering ongoing relationships and providing compassionate care, pharmacists are essential to HIV prevention and treatment.

Across the country, innovative pharmacy- based programs are driving real impact. In some areas, pharmacists can now prescribe pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) directly. Others are participating in public health partnerships to offer HIV testing right in the pharmacy setting. Clinical pharmacists are embedded in primary care medical homes, working alongside the care team by providing direct care to patients living with HIV.

These efforts are expanding the availability of care in ways that are practical, scalable and centered on community needs. When pharmacists are empowered to provide these services, everyone benefits.

Pharmacists are essential to HIV care and prevention. They are medication experts and trusted professionals who help people stay in care.

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