PEP Rally

An online guide to preventing HIV—after exposure

April 1, 2010

Too many people are unaware of PEP—post-exposure prophylaxis—and its potential to prevent HIV. If started within 72 hours of exposure (and the sooner the better), a 28-day course of HIV meds might halt HIV infection.

The web site PEP411.com raises PEP's profile. It explains whether PEP might be appropriate in a given circumstance, and it helps New Yorkers get PEP ASAP.

Not a New Yorker? The site's information can help you know what to say when you go to a local doctor or emergency room seeking PEP.

Providers can get PEP training by visiting ceitraining.org, or call the hotline for docs: 888.448.4911. We say: Spread the 411—and make PEP available everywhere.

PEP stories

Three readers tell their tales.

"Ten years ago, working at a small rural hospital in North Carolina, I was exposed to HIV. I asked for PEP and was told it was too expensive and in short supply. I contracted HIV—and was fired without compensation."

"In 2003, I was exposed to HIV by a boyfriend. The ER nurse had never heard of PEP. When I persisted, I was told that PEP was only for employees after needle sticks. I argued and got one dose of PEP. I followed up with my own doctor and did not contract the virus."

"Have I ever needed PEP? Yes! Did I know it was available? Unfortunately, no. In 2005, I was the victim of a same-sex rape. At a local STD clinic, I was told to wait two weeks and take an HIV antibody test. When the first test was negative, I was told to return for a follow-up in 30 days. By then I was positive."

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http://beta.docker.poz.com/article/prophylaxis-pep-hiv-18205-2640