



## HIV PREVENTION – ALL ABOUT PEP

### What is PEP?

PEP (Post-Exposure Prophylaxis) is a medication that is taken everyday for a month after a potential exposure to HIV.

### When Do I need PEP?

Common reasons for needing PEP:

- You had sex without a condom
- The condom breaks or slips off during sex
- Shared injecting equipment

PEP works best when taken within 72 hours of the exposure to HIV.

### How Does PEP Work?

HIV can take a few days to become established after entering the body.

PEP stops HIV from taking hold in your immune system.

Starting PEP within 72 hours of an exposure to HIV can help stop the virus multiplying.

The HIV in the body would then die naturally without producing more HIV to help prevent you from becoming HIV positive.

### Where Do You Get PEP?

PEP is available from the Emergency Department of most public hospitals, sexual health clinics and some doctors.

If the HIV exposure happens after hours, Emergency Departments are often the best place to go to make sure you start PEP as soon as possible.

- There may be a small cost when you get your prescription filled



## How do I Take PEP?

1. Possible HIV exposure
2. Start PEP as soon as possible and within 72 hours
3. Take PEP every day for a month
4. Follow-up test for HIV and other infections
5. Final HIV test 3 months after potential exposure

It's super important to take PEP as prescribed, **every day for a whole month course**. If you do miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. It is better to take the dose a bit later than not at all.

## It's Nothin to be Shame About

Asking about PEP is taking responsibility for your health. Spread the word about PEP and help end HIV!

## What's PrEP – is it the same as PEP?

No, PrEP is different to PEP.

PrEP is short for HIV 'pre-exposure prophylaxis.'

PEP is taken after an event like unsafe sex, and PrEP is taken before an event or being prepared.

For information see the factsheet: HIV prevention – all about PrEP.

To find out more about PEP go to [www.atsihiv.org.au/health-promotion/pep/](http://www.atsihiv.org.au/health-promotion/pep/)

***Let's look after our health and get tested for STIs and BBVs. If we all test and get treated, we can stop the spread of STIs and BBVs in our community.***

Artwork by Stephanie Evans. Stephanie (she/her) is a Kooma animator, Illustrator and graphic designer based in Meanjin/Magandjin.