

Access to HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for people in NSW who are not eligible for Medicare

Summary The Guideline outlines the process for supplying free PrEP to eligible individuals without Medicare through participating NSW Health services.

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Access to HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for people in NSW who are not eligible for Medicare

Guideline Summary

NSW Health is committed to reducing barriers to HIV prevention by providing free HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to individuals at risk of HIV who are not eligible for Medicare. This program supports the goal of virtually eliminating HIV transmission in NSW.

This Guideline outlines the process for supplying free PrEP to eligible individuals without Medicare through participating NSW Health services.

Key Principles

NSW Health will ensure equity of access by offering free PrEP and associated monitoring tests to eligible individuals who are not covered by Medicare. PrEP will only be provided to those who meet the eligibility criteria, including:

- being ineligible for Medicare
- residency beyond a short-term stay, and
- alignment with the National PrEP Guidelines.

Local implementation is central to the Medicare Ineligible HIV PrEP program (the program), with Local Health Districts (LHDs) and Specialty Health Networks (SHNs) responsible for determining participating services and tailoring delivery to local needs.

To ensure safe and regulated supply, only Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS)-listed PrEP medications will be dispensed, in accordance with national prescribing regulations. Full prescriptions may be supplied under Regulation 49 of the *National Health (Pharmaceutical Benefits) Regulations 2017* (Commonwealth) when endorsed with “One Supply.”

LHDs and SHNs must submit annual reports with deidentified and aggregated data to the NSW Ministry of Health by 10 April each year. Timely reporting is essential to maintain funding and program oversight.

The program is supported by a sustainable funding commitment from the Australian Government, with funding secured until June 2027.

Revision History

Version	Approved By	Amendment Notes
GL2025_020 November-2025	Deputy Secretary, Population and Public Health & Chief Health Officer	New Guideline.

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1. Background

NSW Health recognises the need to reduce barriers to HIV prevention options. Encouraging the use of HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is a priority for NSW Health. HIV PrEP is an antiretroviral medication taken by HIV-negative individuals to prevent HIV infection and has played a significant role in reducing HIV notifications in NSW.

The Australian Government has committed funding to states and territories until June 2027 for PrEP for people who are not eligible for Medicare.

People at risk of acquiring HIV who are not eligible for Medicare will be able to access PrEP medications listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) alongside relevant monitoring tests free of charge from NSW Health facilities, including Publicly Funded Sexual Health Services (PFSHS).

1.1. About this document

This Guideline outlines the process for supplying free PrEP to people in NSW without Medicare who are at risk of acquiring HIV.

The provision of free PrEP to people without Medicare aims to reduce barriers to access, promote awareness of HIV prevention, protect individuals at risk of acquiring HIV, and contribute to reducing HIV transmission rates. This supports the goal to virtually eliminate HIV transmission in NSW.

2. Supplying under protocol or prescribing clinicians

Eligible patients can present at a participating NSW Health service to obtain PrEP. Local Health Districts (LHDs) and Specialty Health Networks (SHNs) will determine which health services participate in the Medicare Ineligible HIV PrEP program and how it will be implemented in their district/network.

2.1. Patient eligibility

To be eligible under this Guideline, a patient must:

- be ineligible for Medicare; and
- report that they are currently residing in Australia beyond a short-term stay¹; and
- be eligible to take PrEP, in accordance with the [National PrEP Guidelines](#).

¹ The Program excludes short-stay visitors to Australia or tourists. The Program includes patients reporting that Australia is the 'usual place of residence' or the patient reports an intention to reside in Australia.

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People who are visiting from interstate or who have recently moved interstate are eligible to receive HIV PrEP medications under this Guideline in NSW if they meet the above criteria.

2.2. Covered Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) medicines

HIV PrEP dispensed or supplied under this Guideline are restricted to Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme listed medications.

HIV PrEP medications can be prescribed or supplied up to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme authorised maximum quantity and number of repeats.

Patients can be dispensed their full script under Regulation 49 of the [National Health \(Pharmaceutical Benefits\) Regulations 2017 \(Commonwealth\)](#) if the prescribing clinician has endorsed the script with 'One Supply'.

3. Reporting

LHDs and SHNs will establish local business processes that meet the minimum reporting requirements outlined in this Guideline.

Reporting must be in accordance with the instructions summarised below.

3.1. Annual dispensing and supply summary report

LHDs and SHNs must submit an annual report² to the Centre for Population Health, NSW Ministry of Health. This report must include deidentified patient information and aggregated activity data for the financial year and be submitted by 10 April each year.

The nominated reporting contact is responsible for collating and submitting the annual report, including any site-level summaries where applicable. Reports should be sent to MOH-BBVSTI@health.nsw.gov.au.

Failure to submit a report by the deadline may have financial implications for LHDs and SHNs, and the NSW Ministry of Health.

² The NSW Ministry of Health may establish alternative reporting timeframes with local health districts and specialty health networks.

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Table 1. Annual Activity Reporting template – due by 10 April annually

	Activity Report (by local health district or specialty health network)	Input
1	Total number of people who received PrEP under the program for the period 1 April to 31 March	<Total number of people>
2	Total number of people in each age range who received PrEP under the program for the period 1 April to 31 March	<Total number of people in each age range: <15, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50+>
3	Total number of people of each sex category who received PrEP under the Program for the period 1 April to 31 March	<Total number of people in each sex category: male, female, other>
4	Residential postcode reported by people who received PrEP under the Program for the period 1 April to 31 March	<Postcode>
5	Total cost of PrEP dispensed or supplied under the Program for the period 1 April to 31 March	<Total expenditure – no rounding>
6	Total number of PrEP scripts* dispensed under the Program for the period 1 April to 31 March	<Total number of scripts dispensed>
7	Total number of sites dispensing or supplying PrEP under the Program for the period 1 April to 31 March	<Total number of clinics/sites>
8	Comments on any issues encountered or suggested improvements	<Free text – provide attachment if required>
9	Comments on any promotional activities delivered by peak bodies to promote the Program	<Free text – provide attachment if required>
10	Any other comments	<Free text – provide attachment if required>

*PrEP scripts = PrEP drug dispensed under a legal order or script.