



What is Injectable PrEP?

- ▶ An HIV prevention medicine given as a shot.
- ▶ Prescribed as protection before you're exposed to HIV.
- ▶ Taken once every 2 or 6 months, it prevents the need to take a daily pill.
- ▶ A provider will give you an HIV test before starting and before each shot.

What Injectable PrEP Options are Available in DC?

There are two injectable PrEP medicines approved by the FDA. A healthcare provider can help you choose which option is best for you. Below is a chart that explains how each is given, how often you need to receive it, and additional important information.

Name	How It's Given	How Often	Additional Information
Apretude	A shot in the muscle (typically in the buttocks)	Every 2 months	Typically, patients start with two shots one month apart; then one shot every two months. A provider may ask that you take pills for 4 weeks at first. For patients aged 12 and older, weighing at least 35kg.
Yeztugo	A shot under the skin (typically in the belly or thigh)	Every 6 months	One shot two times per year. No additional pills needed. For adults only.

What Should I Expect if I Choose to Use Injectable PrEP?

Before you get started, a provider will give you an HIV test. You will also get tested for HIV before each shot. While some people have mild side effects, like soreness where they got the shot, most side effects go away quickly. You can stop or switch PrEP

options at any time. Talk to a health care provider about what works best for you.

Why Choose Injectable PrEP?

Injectable PrEP may be a good fit if you:

- ▶ Experience challenges with taking or swallowing a daily pill.
- ▶ Prefer a more discreet form of prevention compared to carrying around a pill bottle.
- ▶ Travel often or have a busy schedule.
- ▶ Prefer fewer trips to the clinic or your health care provider.
- ▶ Do not have a safe or private place to keep or take medication.
- ▶ Have housing challenges, live in a shared space, or in another situation that could make daily pills hard to manage

Is injectable PrEP Expensive?

Many people qualify for free or low-cost PrEP based on income or insurance status. You may be able to get PrEP for free or at low cost—even without insurance. The [DC PrEP Drug Assistance Program \(PrEP DAP\)](#) helps eligible DC residents pay for PrEP medicine and related clinic visits. Ask your healthcare provider, PrEP navigator, or clinic staff to help you apply.

How do I Start Injectable PrEP?

If you are thinking about injectable PrEP, the next step is to talk to a healthcare provider, a PrEP navigator, or a community health worker you trust. They will answer your questions, explain your options, and help you decide what's best for you.

You do not need to figure it all out on your own. Whether you're ready to start PrEP today or are just curious, DC has local clinics and programs ready to support you with respect, privacy, and care.

ABOUT THIS SERIES

The Effi Barry Training Institute (EBTI), led by HealthHIV, provides capacity building assistance to HIV service providers, community organizations, and public health professionals in DC to advance equitable HIV prevention and care. The EBTI provides resources to support program implementation, workforce development, and community engagement.

The Power of Prevention: Community Strategies for Safer Sexual Health Series showcases groundbreaking strategies redefining the HIV prevention landscape.

This series offers DC residents clear, accessible information to take charge of their sexual health and stay protected.

This community-focused series is designed to educate and empower communities in DC with the knowledge and resources to support their wellness journey.

Need support or a clinic near you?

Scan this QR code to connect instantly with resources at dcendshiv.org. Help is here when you're ready.

