



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

Guideline for Provision of HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) in Western Australia

Under the Federation Funding Agreement
(Access to HIV PrEP for people who are
not eligible for Medicare)

Communicable Disease Control Directorate Guideline 31
April 2026

Classification: Official

Contents

| | | |
|-----------|--|----------|
| 1. | Abbreviations | 1 |
| 2. | Purpose | 1 |
| | 2.1 Intended audience | 1 |
| 3. | Introduction | 2 |
| 4. | Requirements of the Guideline | 2 |
| | 4.1 Prescribing clinician eligibility | 2 |
| | 4.2 Patient eligibility | 2 |
| | 4.3 Medication eligibility for prescribing under the Program | 3 |
| | 4.3.1 Prescribing and dispensing site restrictions | 3 |
| | 4.4 Process for prescribing and dispensing medications under the Program | 3 |
| | 4.5 Reporting requirements | 3 |
| | 4.6 Reimbursement of Health Service Providers | 5 |
| | 4.7 Evaluation of the Program | 5 |
| | 4.8 Record-Keeping and audit requirements | 5 |
| | 4.9 Pathology and clinical testing requirements | 5 |
| 5. | Relevant legislation | 5 |
| 6. | Additional resources | 5 |
| 7. | Guideline contact | 6 |
| 8. | Document control | 6 |
| 9. | Approval | 6 |

1. Abbreviations

| Abbreviation | Definition |
|--------------|--|
| AHPRA | Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency |
| ASHM | Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine |
| FFA | Federation Funding Agreement |
| HIV | Human immunodeficiency virus |
| HSP | Health Service Provider |
| HSS | Health Support Services |
| PrEP | Pre-exposure prophylaxis |
| PBS | Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme |
| RPH | Royal Perth Hospital |
| SHBBVP | Sexual Health and Blood-borne Virus Program |
| WA | Western Australia |
| WACHS | WA Country Health Service |

2. Purpose

This Guideline outlines the eligibility criteria and prescribing requirements for prescribers and Health Service Providers (HSPs) under the [Federation Funding Agreement \(FFA\) – Health – Schedule for communicable diseases of public health concern – Access to HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis \(PrEP\) for people who are not eligible for Medicare](#) [the Program] in Western Australia (WA).

The Program aims to reduce human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) transmission by ensuring eligible Medicare-ineligible individuals can access PrEP during their stay in Australia or until they transition to other funding arrangements (e.g. Medicare eligibility).

2.1 Intended audience

This Guideline applies to the two designated Program sites, the South Terrace Clinic, Fremantle Hospital and the Sexual Health Clinic, Royal Perth Hospital. The following staff involved in the clinical assessment, prescribing, dispensing, clinical follow-up, reporting, and financial management of PrEP:

- medical practitioners and nurse practitioners authorised to prescribe PrEP
- sexual health clinicians at the designated prescribing sites
- pharmacists and pharmacy technicians at authorised outpatient pharmacies
- HSP finance, governance and reporting staff
- telehealth clinicians initiating and providing follow-up care.

3. Introduction

HIV is a notifiable infectious disease in WA under the [Public Health Act 2016](#) and [Public Health Regulations 2017](#). Preventive medication for a notifiable infectious disease, when provided by a public official and required to prevent transmission of the disease to another person, is non-chargeable under the [Public Health Act 2016](#). The Program operates alongside this legislative requirement and supports the [WA Sexual Health and Blood-borne Virus Strategy 2024–2030](#), the aim of which is to virtually eliminate HIV transmission in WA.

The Australian Government committed \$15 million per year nationally to support access to PrEP for Medicare-ineligible people. This Program replaces previous pharmaceutical company sponsored schemes. Under this Program, eligible individuals may obtain Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listed PrEP from:

- Fremantle Hospital – South Terrace Clinic
- Royal Perth Hospital – Sexual Health Clinic.

Hospital pharmacies may charge a dispensing co-payment in accordance with the [WA Health patient fees and charges manual 2025/26](#). Program funds distributed by the WA Department of Health to HSPs cover some medication-related costs. Costs associated with comorbidities or adverse health conditions related to PrEP remain the responsibility of HSPs.

4. Requirements of the Guideline

4.1 Prescribing clinician eligibility

Clinicians prescribing PrEP under the Program must:

- hold current registration with the [Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency \(AHPRA\)](#)
- be authorised to prescribe PBS-listed PrEP medications under relevant WA legislation and WA Health policies (see [Requirements for prescriptions in Western Australia](#))
- practice in accordance with WA Health and Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, and Sexual Health Medicine (ASHM) standards for HIV prevention, including adherence to the National [Prevent HIV by prescribing PrEP](#) guidelines
- be employed and credentialed to practice at one of the two authorised Program sites:
 - Fremantle Hospital – South Terrace Clinic
 - Royal Perth Hospital – Immunology Clinic.

Only clinicians working within these services may assess eligibility and prescribe PrEP under the Program. Note that HIV S100 prescriber accreditation is **not** required for PrEP prescribing.

4.2 Patient eligibility

To be eligible for PrEP under the Program, a patient must:

- report that Western Australia is their usual place of residence
- be ineligible for Medicare

- not currently be serving a custodial term in prison (refer to the [WA Health patient fees and charges manual 2025/26](#))
- be assessed as HIV-negative, at risk of HIV acquisition, and clinically suitable for PrEP in accordance with the ASHM National [Prevent HIV by prescribing PrEP](#)
- be receiving appropriate clinical care and monitoring in relation to sexual health and PrEP-associated health issues through a WA public hospital
- be assessed by the prescribing clinician as there being a public health benefit for the patient to receive PrEP while in Australia (e.g. reducing HIV transmission risk during their stay).

4.3 Medication eligibility for prescribing under the Program

Oral PrEP dispensed under this Program is restricted to PBS-listed medications for HIV prevention. Each HSP is responsible for determining its own policy for eligible medications from the PBS, including the quantity that can be prescribed, up to the PBS-authorized maximum quantity and number of repeat prescriptions. Refer to the [Statewide Medicines Formulary Policy](#) and [Formulary One](#) for prescribing information.

4.3.1 Prescribing and dispensing site restrictions

PrEP under the Program may only be:

- prescribed at:
 - Fremantle Hospital – South Terrace Clinic
 - Royal Perth Hospital – Sexual Health Clinic
- dispensed at:
 - Fremantle Hospital outpatient pharmacy
 - Royal Perth Hospital outpatient pharmacy.

4.4 Process for prescribing and dispensing medications under the Program

1. The Medicare-ineligible individual at risk of HIV attends Fremantle Hospital – South Terrace Clinic or Royal Perth Hospital – Sexual Health Clinic in-person or via telehealth.
2. Pathology tests must be undertaken by PathWest Laboratory Medicine WA.
3. Clinician confirms HIV-negative status and assesses whether the individual is eligible for PrEP under the Program (see **section 4.2**).
4. The prescription is dispensed at the associated outpatient pharmacy and charged to a dedicated Program cost centre established by each HSP; Fremantle Hospital and Royal Perth Hospital pharmacies are responsible for organising proxy collection or courier/postal delivery (subject to local HSP policies) of medications if a patient is unable to collect medication from the Fremantle Hospital or Royal Perth Hospital pharmacy.

4.5 Reporting requirements

Reporting, as per the criteria in **Table 1** and due dates in **Table 2**, will be organised through Health Support Services (HSS). Reports will be reviewed, compiled and submitted by the Sexual Health and Blood-borne Virus Program (SHBBVP), WA Department of Health, to the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing at HIV@health.gov.au. For quality assurance, SHBBVP may contact Chief Pharmacists and clinicians to verify the accuracy of reported costs and patient numbers before submission.

Table 1: Reporting criteria for activity reports

| | Activity report (by HSP) | Input |
|----|---|---|
| 1 | Total number of people who received PrEP under the program from execution to 31 March 2026 | <Total number of people> |
| 2 | Total number of people in each age range who received PrEP under the program from execution to 31 March 2026 | <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 from execution to 31 March 2026 | <Total number of people in each sex category: male, female, other> |
| 4 | Residential postcode recorded by of people who received PrEP under the program from execution to 31 March 2026 | <Postcode> |
| 5 | Total cost of PrEP dispensed under the program from execution to 31 March 2026 | <Total expenditure – no rounding> |
| 6 | Total number of PrEP scripts dispensed under the program from execution to 31 March 2026 | <Total number of scripts dispensed> |
| 7 | Total number of sites dispensing PrEP under the program from execution to 31 March 2026 | <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> |

Table 2: Reporting periods and report due dates

| Reporting period | Report due date |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Up to 31 March 2026 | 30 April 2026 |
| 1 March 2026 to 30 June 2026 | 10 July 2026 |
| 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 | 10 July 2027 |

4.6 Reimbursement of Health Service Providers

Under the FFA, the WA Department of Health receives Program funding from the Australian Government of Health, Disability and Ageing. The allocated funds are then dispersed exclusively to:

- East Metropolitan Health Service (Royal Perth Hospital)
- South Metropolitan Health Service (South Terrace Clinic).

North Metropolitan Health Service and WA Country Health Service do not receive any funding for this Program.

4.7 Evaluation of the Program

The Sexual Health and Blood-borne Virus Program (SHBBVP), WA Department of Health, will coordinate the WA response to the evaluation of the PrEP Program. Health Service Providers (HSPs) and other stakeholders will be invited to provide voluntary annual feedback on the Program, including:

- issues encountered or suggested improvements
- activities undertaken to promote PrEP access and awareness among Medicare-ineligible individuals.

Any feedback outside the scheduled evaluation period can be sent directly to the Program Manager, SHBBVP at shbbvp@health.wa.gov.au.

4.8 Record-Keeping and audit requirements

HSPs must ensure that all prescribing and dispensing activities under the Program are performed only by staff rostered to work at the authorised Program sites. Any prescribing or dispensing outside these locations constitutes non-compliance and may be subject to audit review.

4.9 Pathology and clinical testing requirements

Pathology required for PrEP initiation and ongoing clinical monitoring (including HIV testing, STI screening, and renal function assessment) is funded under the Program. These pathology costs are absorbed within the operational budgets of the responsible HSP and processed through standard PathWest service arrangements. This includes services delivered through South Metropolitan Health Service, North Metropolitan Health Service, East Metropolitan Health Service and WACHS, regardless of whether the HSP receives Program funding.

5. Relevant legislation

- [Public Health Act 2016](#) (WA)
- [Health Services Act 2016](#) (WA)

6. Additional resources

- [WA Health patient fees and charges manual 2025/26](#)
- [Statewide Medicines Formulary Policy](#)
- [Formulary One](#)

- ASHM National [Prevent HIV by prescribing PrEP](#) guidelines (for prescribing and monitoring standards)

7. Guideline contact

Enquiries relating to this Guideline may be directed to:

Program Manager
 Sexual Health and Blood-borne Virus Program
 Communicable Disease Control Directorate
 Email address: shbbvp@health.wa.gov.au

8. Document control

| Guideline number | Version | Published | Review date | Amendments |
|------------------|---------|------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 31 | 1.0 | April 2026 | | Initial version |

9. Approval

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| Approved by | <signature> Dr Paul Armstrong Director, Communicable Disease Control Directorate Department of Health |
| Approval date | DD April 2026 |

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