



**To:** IEHP Medi-Cal PCPs and Specialists  
**From:** Pharmacy, Provider Relations  
**Date:** July 22, 2022  
**Subject:** **Inappropriate Treatment Delays and Denials for HIV PrEP and PEP**

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The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has recently learned of inappropriate treatment delays and denials for HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) used to prevent seroconversion to HIV. These incidents have negatively impacted beneficiary health.

To prevent future delays, denials, and shared misinformation, please be advised that **HIV medications for both PrEP and PEP are a Medi-Cal benefit when deemed medically necessary.**

**These medications do not require a PA when used as a preventative regimen for persons at risk of acquiring HIV PrEP or for PEP treatment.** DHCS and IEHP want to ensure timely access to these critical medications.

Although there may be a Code 1 (diagnosis code) restriction for HIV medications, pharmacists are encouraged to override this using Submission Clarification Code 7 within the scope of their professional discretion, and/or consider suspected exposure to HIV as an HIV diagnosis for the purposes of claims submission.

→ **Prescribers should provide diagnosis information to pharmacies when needed.** Diagnosis codes indicating potential exposure to the HIV virus are sufficient documentation of diagnoses meeting the Code 1 requirements.

- **Examples include diagnosis codes related to:**
  - sticks from sharp objects that may be contaminated with HIV,
  - encounters with body fluids from a person that may have the HIV virus, or
  - potential transmission through unprotected sexual encounters.

For more information, please visit DHCS at:

[https://medi-calrx.dhcs.ca.gov/cms/medicalrx/static-assets/documents/provider/bulletins/2022.07\\_A\\_Inappropriate\\_Treatment\\_of\\_HIV\\_PrEP\\_and\\_PEP.pdf](https://medi-calrx.dhcs.ca.gov/cms/medicalrx/static-assets/documents/provider/bulletins/2022.07_A_Inappropriate_Treatment_of_HIV_PrEP_and_PEP.pdf)

As a reminder, all communications sent by IEHP can also be found on the IEHP website at: [www.iehp.org](http://www.iehp.org) > For Providers > Plan Updates > Correspondences

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the IEHP Provider Relations Team at (909) 890-2054 or (866) 223-4347 or email [ProviderServices@iehp.org](mailto:ProviderServices@iehp.org)