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| <p>IMPORTANCE:</p> <p>Expanding access to HIV screening and PrEP in NYS is critical to ending the epidemic.</p> | <p><i>HIV Screening:</i> It is estimated that only 49% of New Yorkers have ever been tested for HIV. According to 2018 data, approximately 10,500 residents are unaware they are living with HIV and 21% of people newly diagnosed with HIV had a concurrent AIDS diagnosis, meaning the person was living with HIV for many years without an HIV test. *</p> <p><i>PrEP:</i> While the number of new infections in NYS has been decreasing since 2013, there were more than 2,019 new infections in 2018 that could have been prevented with PrEP. *</p> |
| <p>FINDINGS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HIV Screening • PrEP | <p>In June of 2019, the USPSTF found convincing evidence that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification and early treatment of HIV infection is of substantial benefit in reducing the risk of AIDS-related events or death. • Use of antiretroviral therapy is of substantial benefit in decreasing the risk of HIV transmission to uninfected sexual partners. • Identification and treatment of pregnant women living with HIV infection is of substantial benefit in reducing the rate of mother-to-child transmission. • The overall magnitude of the benefit of screening for HIV infection in adolescents, adults, and pregnant women is substantial. • PrEP is of substantial benefit in decreasing the risk of HIV transmission to persons at risk of HIV acquisition. See table on next page for more information. |
| <p>CONCLUSIONS</p> | <p>The USPSTF recommends HIV screening for adolescents, adults, and pregnant women and HIV treatment for those with diagnosed HIV infection. GRADE: A</p> <p>The USPSTF recommends PrEP for persons at high risk of HIV acquisition. GRADE: A</p> |

Importance of HIV Screening, HIV Treatment and PrEP in New York

- New York State’s three-point plan to end the AIDS epidemic emphasizes the importance of:
 - Promoting HIV screening for all individuals age 13 and older as a routine part of health care. The offer of HIV testing is required by public health law. Testing can easily be incorporated into routine health care. Visit: https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/providers/testing/docs/testing_toolkit.pdf
 - Ensuring access to HIV treatment for all those living with HIV.
 - Expanding access to PrEP for all those at high risk of acquiring HIV.
- New York State is seeking to increase the number of eligible individuals taking advantage of PrEP from 32,000 at the end of 2018 to 65,000 by the end of 2020.

PrEP is a cornerstone of HIV prevention and is strongly endorsed by the NYS Department of Health.
Find NYS HIV Clinical Guidelines at www.hivguidelines.org.

Definition of USPSTF Grade A and Suggestions for Practice

| Grade | Recommendation | Definition | Suggestion for Practice |
|-------|----------------|---|-----------------------------|
| A | Recommended | Evidence suggests with a high degree of certainty that the service has a substantial net benefit. | Offer/ provide the service. |

What is the US Preventive Services Taskforce?

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) is an independent panel of clinical experts established by Congress to evaluate and make recommendations about the effectiveness of specific preventive care services for patients without related signs or symptoms. USPSTF recommendations only address services offered in the primary care setting or services referred by a primary care clinician.

The USPSTF grades recommendations based on the evidence of both the benefits and harms of the service and an assessment of the balance. The USPSTF assessment does not consider service provision costs.

USPSTF MISSION

To improve health by making evidence-based recommendations about clinical preventive services such as:

- Screenings
- Counseling services
- Preventive medicine

USPSTF and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA)

- The ACA requires non-grandfathered, private health plans to cover clinical preventive services given a grade A or B by the USPSTF **without cost sharing**. [NYS Division of Financial Services Circular provides](#) NYS guidance.
- The ACA prohibits insurance companies from declining to sell or renew policies because of preexisting conditions.

USPSTF Guidance Regarding Persons at High Risk of HIV Acquisition

THE USPSTF RECOMMENDS THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSONS BE CONSIDERED FOR PrEP:

Men who have sex with men, who are sexually active who have a sero-discordant sex partner (i.e., in a sexual relationship with a partner living with HIV), have inconsistent use of condoms during receptive or insertive anal sex, or a sexually transmitted infection (STI) with syphilis, gonorrhea, or chlamydia within the past 6 months.

Heterosexually active women and men who have a sero-discordant sex partner (i.e., in a sexual relationship with a partner living with HIV), have inconsistent use of condoms during sex with a partner whose HIV status is unknown and who is at high risk (e.g. a person who injects drugs or a man who has sex with men and women), or an STI with syphilis or gonorrhea within the past 6 months.

Persons who inject drugs and have shared use of drug injection equipment or a risk of sexual acquisition of HIV (see above).

Other circumstances which warrant consideration of PrEP include:

- Persons who engage in transactional sex, such as sex for money, drugs, or housing, including commercial sex workers or persons trafficked for sex work.
- Men who have sex with men and women are at risk of HIV acquisition and should be evaluated for PrEP according to the criteria outlined above.
- Transgender women and men who are sexually active may be at increased risk of HIV acquisition based on the criteria outlined above.

SEE NYS CLINICAL GUIDELINES FOR EXPANDED STATE-SPECIFIC GUIDANCE ON PrEP: WWW.HIVGUIDELINES.ORG.

The Full USPSTF Recommendation Statement on Preexposure Prophylaxis and HIV Screening are available at:

- <https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Document/UpdateSummaryFinal/prevention-of-human-immunodeficiency-virus-hiv-infection-pre-exposure-prophylaxis>
- <https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Document/UpdateSummaryFinal/human-immunodeficiency-virus-hiv-infection-screening1>

* Source: <http://etedashboardny.org/>