



Karen Saylor, MD, President | Jeffrey S. Barkin, MD, President-Elect | Erik N. Steele, DO, FAAFP, Chair, Board of Directors
Andrew B. MacLean, JD, CEO | Dan Morin, Director of Communications & Government Affairs

TO: The Honorable Heather Sanborn, Chair
The Honorable Denise Tepler, Chair
Members, Joint Standing Committee Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

FM: Dan Morin, Director of Communications and Government Affairs

DATE: April 8, 2021

RE: **Support**
LD 1115 An Act To Improve Access to HIV Prevention Medications

The Maine Medical Association is the state's largest professional physician organization representing more than 4300 physicians, residents, and medical students across all clinical specialties, organizations, and practice settings.

The MMA **supports LD 1115** An Act To Improve Access to HIV Prevention Medications, sponsored by Senator Sanborn with one suggested amendment.

PrEP (short for HIV Pre Exposure Prophylaxis) involves working with a healthcare provider to make an individualized plan to take medication to prevent HIV. Clinical trials have shown that PrEP is 99% effective at reducing sexual transmission of HIV. As of January 2019, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved two medications as PrEP for HIV: Truvada (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300 mg/emtricitabine 200 mg), and Descovy (tenofovir alafenamide 25 mg/emtricitabine 200 mg).

The American Medical Association has a longstanding policy focused on educating physicians and the public about the effective use of PrEP for HIV and the US PrEP Clinical Practice Guidelines supports the coverage of PrEP in all clinically appropriate circumstances. The Maine Medical Association position is in line with the AMA in supporting the removal of insurance barriers for PrEP such as prior authorization, mandatory consultation with an infectious disease specialist, and other barriers that may not be clinically relevant.

We do, however, offer an amendment to the bill. On page 3 of the bill, line 21, we ask that the duration be changed from 60 days to 30 days.

2. Authorization. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary and as authorized by the board in accordance with rules adopted under subsection 3, a pharmacist may dispense HIV prevention drugs pursuant to a standing order or to protocols developed by the board in accordance with the requirements in this subsection and may also order laboratory testing for HIV infection as necessary.

A. Before furnishing an HIV prevention drug to a patient, a pharmacist shall complete a training program approved by the board on the use of protocols developed by the board for dispensing an HIV prevention drug, on the requirements for any laboratory testing for HIV infection and on guidelines for prescription adherence and best practices to counsel patients prescribed an HIV prevention drug.

B. A pharmacist shall dispense a preexposure prophylaxis drug in at least a 30-day supply, and up to a ~~60-day supply~~ 30-day supply, as long as all of the following conditions are met:

The current standard for follow-up appointments for further education and consult about PrEP, a review of daily versus on-demand PrEP, HIV testing, and other lab work is usually within 2-4 weeks after first prescription. The goal is also to check in on how things are going related to other potential health care issues and to troubleshoot any problems with or access to additional clinical support services. Follow-up appointments can then be established jointly by the primary care provider and the patient.

The change will also encourage promotion of the medical home model, with a goal to meet the majority of a patient's physical and mental health care needs through all elements of the health care system, such as potential specialty care, home health care, and community services, all with an emphasis on efficient and consistent care transitions.

We respectfully request the committee to vote Ought to Pass as Amended with our suggestion and are available to provide any additional information prior to the work session and intend to again be in virtual attendance.