PrEP Protocol for Medical Services Providers

This is a quick guide to PrEP at Columbia Health. See the NYS AIDS Institute Guidelines for many more details.

Student interested in PrEP
Students interested in starting PrEP should contact GHAP Associate Director Daniel Chiarilli (ghap@columbia.edu or 212-854-6644) for an initial consultation.

GHAP initial PrEP consultation → first PrEP Rx
The GHAP Associate Director will discuss sexual health with students seeking PrEP and will make appropriate referrals when needed. GHAP will also monitor students’ immunizations so that they are up to date with the following recommendations: HPV, Hep A & B, Meningococcal ACWY.

Testing necessary to initiate PrEP will be ordered under the PCP’s name through Point and Click. This testing includes:

- HIV 4th Generation Ab/Ag (test should be no older than 7 days for a prescription)
- Creatinine, serum
- Urinalysis
- if not already run at Columbia: Hep B Surf Ab, HBsAg screen, Hep A Ab, Hep C
- RPR, GC/CT in 3 sites – as needed

The GHAP Associate Director will notify students of the results of the initial testing. If the student has already established care at Columbia Health, the student will send a secure message to their PCP, requesting the first PrEP Rx (30 days). If the student has not established care, GHAP will help arrange an appointment with the PCP, who will then send the first PrEP Rx.

As a rule, prescribe generic Truvada (emtricitabine / tenofovir disoproxil fumarate). It is the exact same medication as the brand name, and much cheaper.

Please use the PrEP Provider Visit template for Point and Click, which will remind you of the necessary steps, including calculating the creatinine clearance (must be >60).

Follow-up visits / Maintenance
The GHAP Associate Director will meet with students on PrEP for each of the check-ins through the first 90 days (an HIV test will be run at the 30-day mark, preceding the second Rx for 60 days). Students may come to GHAP drop-in hours for all check-ins after 90 days. Required labs, as well as STI screenings (Express Collect) when requested, will be ordered under the PrEP prescriber’s name, and students will be encouraged to send a request to the prescriber for their next prescription through the Patient Portal.

All GHAP encounters will be charted in Point and Click in “Notes.” Please note, you will find these encounters only in “Notes,” not in “Appointments.”
After 30 days: HIV test (followed by 60-day Rx)

Every 3 months
- HIV-1/ O/2 antigen/antibody, 4th generation
- RPR & STI screening (as indicated)

Every 6 months
- Creatinine, serum

Every 12 months
- Urinalysis
- Hepatitis C virus

Online Resources
Gay Health Advocacy Project (GHAP):
health.columbia.edu/ghap

Medical Services: health.columbia.edu/medical-services

On-Campus Resources
GHAP: 212-854-6655
Medical Services: 212-854-7426

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