



HIV PEP – what is it?

HIV PEP is a medical treatment that is prescribed for some people following a high-risk sexual exposure in order to prevent HIV infection.

POST = after.

EXPOSURE = a situation where HIV has a chance to get into someone's blood stream.

PROPHYLAXIS = a treatment to stop an infection happening.

HIV PEP MUST BE TAKEN WITHIN 72 HOURS OF EXPOSURE TO HIV, AND SOONER IF POSSIBLE.

HIV PEP treatment is free and is only available at some STI/GUM clinics or hospital A&E departments.

HIV PEP Facts:

- HIV PEP must be taken within 72 hours of exposure to HIV. The sooner you take it after the exposure, the better it works.
- HIV PEP is a course of tablets for 28 days. It is important that you complete the course and do not miss any doses.
- If you take HIV PEP it does not mean that you become immune to HIV. If you are sexually active while on PEP, you still need to practice safer sex.
- If you are prescribed HIV PEP you will have a series of blood tests and an STI screen, if available. Follow-up blood tests will also be arranged.
- HIV PEP is not a cure for HIV, and is not a vaccine.
- After completion, safer sex is still the best way of preventing HIV infection.

Who gets HIV PEP?

- Not everyone who wants HIV PEP will get it.
- Doctors at the clinic or hospital will decide, following an assessment.
- It's important to give the doctor clear information on the incident.
- You will be asked if you know that the person you had sexual contact with is HIV positive.

If so, you will be asked about the treatment they are on, and if the viral load is known.

You may also be asked if contact can be made with them to verify the information.

- If you have had a sexual risk and are not prescribed PEP, you will be advised to have follow-up blood tests 6 weeks and 12 weeks after the incident.

Where to get HIV PEP:

Remember,

HIV PEP MUST BE TAKEN WITHIN 72 HOURS, AND SOONER IF POSSIBLE.

ATTEND YOUR NEAREST STI/GUM CLINIC OR HOSPITAL A&E: DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE CLINIC YOU PREFER IS OPEN.

- **HIV PEP IS AVAILABLE AT:**
GMHS STI Clinic,
Baggot St. Hospital, Dublin 4.
Walk in Tues & Weds 5pm to 6:30pm
www.gmhs.ie
- **OR YOUR NEAREST:**
STI Clinic or Hospital A&E,
www.Man2Man.ie for a full list.
- **SEXUAL HEALTH INFORMATION AND SUPPORT:**
Gay Switchboard Ireland
Tel: 01 872 1055 (seven days a week)
Email: ask@ghn.ie



www.Man2Man.ie:

For more information on PEP, HIV, and STIs, in nine languages.

GSD Helpline 01 872 1055:

For confidential support & information 7 days a week.

