

## Important Update: PreExposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) for the Prevention of HIV Infection

In June 2019, the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommended that clinicians offer PreExposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) with effective antiretroviral therapy to people who are at high risk of acquiring HIV.

The USPSTF reviewed the clinical evidence on the benefits of PrEP for the prevention of HIV with oral tenofovir (generic Viread) or Truvada. Currently, Truvada is the only medication approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for PrEP. Several clinical studies reviewed by the USPSTF found that tenofovir alone was also effective and can be considered as an alternative regimen for PrEP. Descovy is also under investigation for PrEP but it has not been granted FDA approval nor is it currently recommended by the USPSTF.

Effective January 2021, all non-grandfathered health plans will be required to cover Truvada and tenofovir, in addition to all applicable clinical visits and lab work directly related to PrEP care, without deductible(s) or copay(s). Plans may elect to change coverages sooner, but it must be implemented by January 2021. Currently, both of these medications are on the CastiaRx Specialty Drug list and require prior authorization after one fill to allow members to start this medication promptly.

The CastiaRx clinical team will be working closely with the legal department and Certilytics to ensure that CastiaRx and our clients are in full compliance with the legal requirements as well as optimizing clinical care by using adherence data.

The prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS is a very complex issue. As a PBM, we must consider medication handling safety, specialty vs. non-specialty status, allowing retail fills, accumulators, plan communications, extra HIPAA and PHI safeguards, and copay assistance. We will be monitoring the outworkings of this new recommendation as well as making sure that all changes will be in place by the January 2021 deadline. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to the clinical team at [ci@castiarx.com](mailto:ci@castiarx.com).

The USPSTF is an independent, volunteer based panel of experts in prevention and evidence-based medicine. They provide a report directly to Congress with recommendations of priority service areas that require further examination. Those recommendations are often further disseminated into rules and regulations that govern care standards in the U.S. They directly affect how CastiaRx defines and remodels our clinical approach for the clients and members that we serve.

