



## Pharmacists Prescribing Postexposure Prophylaxis (PEP) Training Program

### What is Postexposure Prophylaxis (PEP)?

A combination of three antiretroviral medications within 72 hours of possible exposure to HIV to prevent chronic HIV infection. PEP should be used only in emergency situations. It is not meant for regular use by people who may be exposed to HIV frequently. ([HIV.gov](http://HIV.gov))

### Background

In 2021, the New Mexico Board of Pharmacy approved the [protocol for pharmacists prescribing HIV PEP](#). A training program must be in accordance with 16.19.26.14 NMAC and approved by the Board of Pharmacy.

#### Education and training:

(1) The pharmacist must successfully complete a course of training, accredited by the accreditation council for pharmacy education (ACPE), for each category of POCT for which the pharmacist exercises prescriptive authority, provided by:

- (a) the New Mexico pharmacists association; or
- (b) a similar health authority or professional body approved by the board.

(2) Training must include study materials and instruction in the following content areas:

- (a) mechanisms of action;
- (b) contraindications;
- (c) identifying indications for the use of protocol formulary drug therapy;
- (d) patient screening, history and assessment criteria;
- (e) counseling and training patient and care-giver regarding the safety, efficacy and potential adverse effects of prescribed protocol formulary dangerous drug(s);
- (f) evaluating patient's medical profile for drug interactions;
- (g) patient referrals;
- (h) informed consent;
- (i) record management;
- (j) management of adverse events.

### Proposed Training Organization:

**SCAETC:** The South-Central AIDS Education & Training Center (SCAETC) offers education, training, preceptorships, and other special projects specifically designed to improve HIV/AIDS care, treatment, and prevention services. For more information, [visit the website](#).

**UNM-AETC:** UNM-AETC, a local partner site of SCAETC, provides training and education throughout the region including didactic presentations, interactive skills building workshops, communities of practice, clinical preceptorships, clinical consultations, and coaching for organizational capacity building. UNM-AETC partners both locally and nationally to host the annual statewide NM HIV/HCV Update Conference and offers ongoing in-person and TeleECHO education and training opportunities. Education and trainings provide customized, multi-disciplinary programs for healthcare teams treating persons with HIV or those at risk for HIV. For more information, [visit the website](#).



### **Purpose of the certification course:**

To improve patient access to HIV prevention by increasing the number of qualified healthcare providers in the state who can prescribe PEP when clinically appropriate and indicated.

**Target Audience:** This program is intended to meet the training requirements of the New Mexico Board of Pharmacy for pharmacist prescriptive authority for PEP.

### **Registration:**

Registration for this course is required for tracking of participant's progress and documentation of completion of the required coursework. This course is free of charge and there is no fee associated with registering for this course or the individual educational components.

### **Required Pre-Work:**

*\*Must be completed prior to the live session.*



The National HIV Curriculum is a free educational website from the University of Washington. This project is funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

The National HIV Curriculum provides ongoing, up-to-date information needed to meet the core competency knowledge for HIV prevention, screening, diagnosis, and ongoing treatment and care to healthcare providers in the United States. [https://youtu.be/b5f4qqJ3f\\_M](https://youtu.be/b5f4qqJ3f_M)

Pharmacists seeking prescriptive authority will need to create a free account with the National Curriculum online education platform for the "[National HIV Curriculum](#)". The facilitator from UNM-AETC will invite registrants to the group, where progress will be tracked for completion. The facilitator will upload certificates of completion for each participant to the tracking platform (Moodle, or other).

### **Home study modules - Approximate time: 12.5 hours**

*\*= optional, only required if seeking CME certificate*

1. [HIV Screening and Diagnosis Overview \(Module 1\)](#)
  - a. [Epidemiology of HIV](#) 1 CME AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™
    - i. Definitions for HIV Epidemiology Data
    - ii. HIV Prevalence
    - iii. New HIV Diagnoses
    - iv. Undiagnosed HIV
    - v. HIV Incidence Estimates
    - vi. Social Determinants of Health and HIV
    - vii. *\*Deaths in Persons with HIV*
    - viii. *\*Global HIV Epidemiology*
    - ix. *\*HIV-2*
    - x. Summary points
    - xi. Quiz



- b. [HIV Screening Recommendations](#) 1 CME AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™
    - i. Background and Definitions
    - ii. Rationale for Routine HIV Screening
    - iii. CDC HIV Screening Recommendations
    - iv. USPSTP HIV Screening Recommendations
    - v. Potential Barriers to Routine Screening
    - vi. Partner Services
    - vii. Summary points
    - viii. Quiz
  - c. [HIV Diagnostic Testing](#) 1.5 CME AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™
    - i. Background
    - ii. Timing of Laboratory Markers following HIV Infection
    - iii. Tests Used for the Diagnosis of HIV
    - iv. Laboratory HIV Testing Algorithm as Recommended by CDC/APHL
    - v. Performance of Diagnostic Tests
    - vi. Special Diagnostic Situations
    - vii. Delivering Test Results
    - viii. Summary points
    - ix. Quiz
  - d. [Acute and Recent HIV Infection](#) 1 CME AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™
    - i. Background and Definitions
    - ii. Immunopathogenesis
    - iii. Clinical Manifestations
    - iv. Laboratory Diagnosis
    - v. Rationale for Treatment of Acute HIV Infection
    - vi. Antiretroviral Treatment Recommendations
    - vii. Summary Points
    - viii. Quiz
  - e. [Linkage to HIV Care](#) 1 CME AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™
    - i. Background
    - ii. Process for Estimating and Monitoring Linkage to Care
    - iii. Current State of Linkage to Care in the United States
    - iv. Interventions to Improve Linkage to Care
    - v. Strategies for Clinics to Improve Linkage to Care
    - vi. Summary Points
    - vii. Quiz
2. [Antiretroviral Therapy \(Module 3\)](#)
- a. [Antiretroviral Medications and Initial Therapy](#) 1.5 CME AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™  
Included in training to understand HIV life cycle, various medication targets, and importance of adherence to HIV medication.
    - i. Background
    - ii. HIV Life Cycle and Antiretroviral Drug Targets
    - iii. When to Initiate Antiretroviral Therapy
    - iv. Antiretroviral Regimens for Initial Therapy
    - v. *\*Choosing Specific Antiretroviral Regimen*
    - vi. *\*What Not to Use*
    - vii. *\*Monitoring Response to Antiretroviral Therapy*



- viii. *\*Poor CD4 Response to Antiretroviral Therapy*
- ix. *\*Discontinuation or Treatment Interruption*
- x. Summary Points
- xi. Quiz

3. **Prevention of HIV (Module 5)**

a. **Preventing HIV Transmission in Persons with HIV** 1 CME AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™

Included in training to discuss U=U, importance of adherence to HIV medication, and to understand importance of linking preliminary positive HIV people to care ASAP for medication start.

- i. Introduction and Background
- ii. Antiretroviral Treatment as Prevention (TasP)
- iii. Knowledge of HIV Status
- iv. Behavioral Prevention Interventions for Persons with HIV
- v. Importance of Diagnosing and Treating Acute HIV Infection
- vi. Treatment of Sexually Transmitted Infections
- vii. Circumcision
- viii. Prevention Strategies in Persons with Substance Use
- ix. Summary Points
- x. Quiz

b. **Occupational PEP** 1 CME AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™

- i. Introduction
- ii. Rationale for Occupational PEP
- iii. Risk Assessment for Occupational Exposure Event
- iv. Recommended Initial Steps Following an Exposure Event
- v. Recommended Antiretroviral Regimens for oPEP
- vi. Obtaining Expert Consultation for oPEP
- vii. Baseline Evaluation and Counseling for Health Care Worker
- viii. Follow-Up of Health Care Worker After Exposure Event
- ix. Summary Points
- x. Quiz

c. **Non-Occupational PEP (nPEP)** 1.5 CME AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™

- i. Introduction and Background
- ii. Rationale for Providing nPEP
- iii. Evaluation for nPEP
- iv. Indications for Initiating nPEP
- v. Recommended Therapy for nPEP
- vi. Expert Consultation for nPEP
- vii. Laboratory Testing for Source and Exposed Persons
- viii. nPEP in Special Populations and Circumstances
- ix. Initial Medication Prescription and Follow-Up After Evaluation
- x. Transitioning to Preexposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)
- xi. Concerns with nPEP
- xii. Summary Points
- xiii. Quiz

d. **Preexposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)** 2 CME AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™

Included in training to discuss the difference between PEP & PrEP, importance of adherence to PrEP, PEP to PrEP, and so pharmacists can counsel patients who receive nPEP to seek PrEP services

- i. Introduction



- ii. Major PrEP Studies
- iii. Persons to Consider for PrEP
- iv. Regimens Approved for HIV PrEP
- v. Baseline Laboratory Evaluation, Immunizations, and Counseling
- vi. Time to Achieve Protection after Initiating PrEP
- vii. Monitoring on PrEP
- viii. Acquisition of HIV While on PrEP
- ix. Impact of Adherence on Efficacy of PrEP
- x. PrEP and Development of HIV Drug Resistance
- xi. Adverse Effects of Medications Used for PrEP
- xii. Changes in Sexual Practices Among Persons Receiving PrEP
- xiii. Discontinuing PrEP
- xiv. Transitioning from Nonoccupational PEP to PrEP
- xv. Racial and Gender Disparities in PrEP Use
- xvi. Future Studies
- xvii. Summary Points
- xviii. Quiz

#### **Pre-test:**

A competency exam will be administered prior to the live didactic, to assess understanding of concepts upon completion of the home-study modules. This exam score will be used to evaluate effectiveness of live didactic portion and pre- & post-exam scores will be tracked in Moodle (or another appropriate platform).

#### **Live Didactic:** *offered at **no-cost** on a quarterly basis, 3 hours of ACPE available to attendees*

For initial PEP prescriptive authority, all registrants must attend the live didactic session following completion of the home-study. Live sessions will be offered through UNM-AETC via Zoom or in-person, depending on availability. The live portion of this course will be approximately 3 hours in duration. During the live session participants will be expected to contribute to active discussion via patient cases, videos, and questions. At the end of the live session, a multiple-choice competency exam will be administered to all participants to assess for understanding of key points. To pass the exam, participants will have to correctly answer  $\geq 85\%$  of the exam questions. Upon passing, the participant will receive a certificate of completion. UNM-AETC will maintain a database with information of all participants, including exam results.

By the end of the live session, participants should feel confident in their abilities to:

1. Conduct a 4<sup>th</sup> generation rapid HIV screening test after obtaining informed consent and interpret the results of the accurately.
2. Take a relevant history to assess if PEP is warranted or contraindicated.
3. Evaluate medical profile and/or reported medications for drug interactions.
4. Prescribe a board-approved PEP formulary regimen.
5. Counsel patient and caregiver on the safety, efficacy, and potential adverse effects of PEP.
6. Refer patients to appropriate resources in the community.
7. Maintain records according to state regulations.
8. Manage adverse events.



9. Comply with the New Mexico Board of Pharmacy requirements for prescriptive authority of PEP including:
  - a. Patient information & educational materials
  - b. Patient informed consent
  - c. Patient privacy
  - d. Prescription requirements
  - e. Maintenance of records
  - f. Legal issues
10. Demonstrate appropriate use and compliance with the PEP Protocol as approved by the New Mexico Board of Pharmacy, the New Mexico Board of Medical Examiners, and the New Mexico Board of Nursing.

**Requirements for Maintaining Prescriptive Authority:**

Pharmacists with prescriptive authority will maintain active certification and are responsible for 2 hours of live ACPE-accredited continuing education credits in the field of HIV prevention every two years (1 hour of live ACPE accredited CE per year).

1. Project ECHO: HIV Prevention (1 hour CPE per session)
  - a. Didactic plus case presentation with interactive discussion
  - b. Offered the first Tuesday of every month @ 12 pm MST
  - c. No cost for attendance or CPE
  - d. Contact information: [hivecho@salud.unm.edu](mailto:hivecho@salud.unm.edu)
2. SCAETC regional calendar of events can be found [here](#).
3. UNM-AETC can provide annual 1-hour didactics at NMPhA and/or NMSHP meetings free of charge to the organizations
  - a. Contact information: UNM-AETC [nmaetc@salud.unm.edu](mailto:nmaetc@salud.unm.edu)