

## Referrals

### ■ Who can make a referral?

Referrals can be taken from all providers, county health departments, community based organizations, or individuals.

### ■ How do I make a referral?

For instructions and to refer your patients, see form: ODH 1397. You access the form by scanning the QR code or visiting [oklahoma.gov/health/shhr](http://oklahoma.gov/health/shhr).



### ■ Tips for completing the referral form:

- Indicate which service you are enrolling the patient in (i.e. Rapid Start or PrEP) at the top of the form.
- Please ensure you provide the most reliable contact information for your patients. Accurate information helps to ensure rapid follow up with patients.

Completed forms may be emailed to [RapidStart@health.ok.gov](mailto:RapidStart@health.ok.gov) or faxed to 405.900.7586.

### ■ How long will it take for my patients to be contacted after I send a referral?

Patients can expect to be contacted by providers from OSDH within one week of receiving a completed referral form. The goal of the RapidStart program is to have patients evaluated and started on Antiretroviral Therapy within seven days of their HIV result.



## Rapid Start

405.426.8400

405.900.7586 (fax)

[RapidStart@health.ok.gov](mailto:RapidStart@health.ok.gov)

## Oklahoma State Department of Health

Sexual Health and Harm Reduction Services

123 Robert S. Kerr Ave. • OKC, OK

405.426.8400

[SHHRSservice@health.ok.gov](mailto:SHHRSservice@health.ok.gov)



# RAPID START AND PrEP PROGRAM



OKLAHOMA  
State Department  
of Health



SEXUAL HEALTH &  
HARM REDUCTION  
SERVICE





## What is the Rapid Start and PrEP Program at OSDH?

This program offers providers a path to connect their patients with critical HIV treatment and preventive services. This includes Rapid Start for patients newly diagnosed with HIV and PrEP for HIV-negative patients who could benefit from pre-exposure prophylaxis.



### Rapid Start

#### How will Rapid Start benefit my patients newly diagnosed with HIV?

People newly diagnosed with HIV should be prescribed Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) as soon as possible. With proper treatment, people with HIV can remain healthy for many years and achieve an undetectable viral load. ART is recommended for all people with HIV, regardless of CD4 count.

#### Early diagnosis followed by prompt ART initiation:

- Reduces HIV-associated morbidity and mortality.
- Greatly decreases HIV transmission to others.
- May reduce the risk of serious non-AIDS-related diseases.

### PrEP

#### How will PrEP benefit my HIV-negative patients at risk for acquiring HIV?

PrEP (Pre-exposure Prophylaxis) is medicine people at risk for HIV take to prevent getting HIV.

#### How Effective Is PrEP?

PrEP is highly effective for preventing HIV. It greatly reduces the risk of getting HIV from sex when taken as prescribed. Although there is less information about how effective PrEP is among people who inject drugs, we do know that PrEP lowers the risk of getting HIV when taken as prescribed.

### Highlights of the Rapid Start program:

- No insurance or citizenship status is required.
- First month of medication is free.
- Initial screening and exam are free.
- Connection to case management.
- Enrollment in the Oklahoma HIV Drug Assistance Program.
- Connection to continuity of care.

#### What services does the Rapid Start Program cover?

Providers from the OSDH are here to help get patients evaluated and started on ART within seven days of their HIV result.

#### Are There Different Types of PrEP?

Three medications are approved for use as PrEP: Truvada®, Descovy® and Apretude®.

- Truvada® could be for all people at risk through sex or injection drug use.
- Descovy® could be used for people who are at risk for HIV that were not assigned female at birth who could be at risk through vaginal sex.
- Apretude® could be used in place of oral PrEP medication and could help with adherence to medication.

### Highlights of the PrEP program:

- The providers take care of all labs, exams and medications free of charge.
- Assistance with connection to Ready, Set, PrEP or Advancing Access to continue to receive medication free of charge.
- PrEP clients are seen by the providers every three months for follow-up and medication refills — at home visits, virtual visits or in a county health department or community-based organization (CBO).