

**Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) – HIV prevention
H.611 Proposed Amendment – Senate Health and Welfare Committee – April 1, 2026**

(a) Definitions

(1) “HIV prevention drug” means any preexposure prophylaxis (PrEP) drug or post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) including oral and long-acting injectable formulations, approved for the prevention of HIV by the federal Food and Drug Administration or otherwise authorized for HIV prevention pursuant to FDA labeling or federal clinical guidelines.

(2) “Health insurance plan” means any individual or group health insurance policy, any hospital or medical service corporation or health maintenance organization subscriber contract, or any other health benefit plan offered, issued, or renewed for any person in this State by a health insurer, as defined by 18 V.S.A. § 9402. “Health insurance plan” shall include Medicaid and any other public health care assistance program offered or administered by the State or by any subdivision or instrumentality of the State.

(3) “Supportive health services” means any health service that is necessary to initiate, monitor or maintain a person to ensure the safe and effective ongoing use of an HIV prevention drug, which includes:

(A) an office visit;

(B) laboratory testing;

(C) testing for a sexually transmitted infection;

(D) medication self-management and adherence counseling;

(E) patient education and counseling by the patient’s health care provider regarding the appropriate use of the HIV prevention drug.

(F) or any other health services that are components of comprehensive HIV prevention drug services as determined by the patient’s health care provider.

(b) A health insurance plan that provides coverage of prescription drugs and supportive health services, as defined in this section

(1) shall provide coverage for HIV prevention drugs and supportive health services without requiring

(A) any cost-sharing, including co-payments or co-insurance, or any deductible, and

(B) prior authorization, step therapy, quantity limits, frequency limits, or any other protocol that could restrict or delay the dispensing of any HIV prevention drug; and

(2) shall not refuse, reject, or deny a prescription for any covered HIV prevention drug on the basis of the type or category of health care practitioner issuing the prescription or the venue or practice setting of the health care practitioner issuing the prescription, as long as the health care practitioner is authorized to prescribe medications under State Law.

(c) Benefits provided to an insured under this section shall be the same for the insured’s covered spouse and other covered dependents.

(d) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, a licensed pharmacist shall be authorized to prescribe, dispense, or administer HIV prevention drugs. The department, in consultation with the board of registration in pharmacy, shall promulgate regulations implementing this provision and establishing the terms and conditions of such authority.