

Talking To Clients About Doxy PEP:

Guidance for Navigators & DIS

Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM) and transgender people experience higher rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) than other populations, and the disparities are even larger for GBMSM and trans people of color. As an effective new prevention tool for cisgender GBMSM and transgender women, the use of a common antibiotic, doxycycline, as STI post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) has the potential to lessen the rates of STIs and reduce health disparities. However, lessons learned from the introduction of PrEP for HIV and JYNNEOS as the Mpox vaccine demonstrate that an effective introduction of doxycycline as STI PEP will require careful attention to health equity. **Proactively informing people rather than waiting for patients to request this new intervention can facilitate more equitable distribution.**

Use this guidance to develop strategies for talking about doxy PEP to clients you may work with while providing prevention navigation or partner services.

Communicate About Doxy PEP

Integrate messaging about doxy PEP when talking with clients who are eligible to take doxy PEP during the following opportunities:

- When discussing a new STI diagnosis with a client
- When interviewing or talking to a partner of a client exposed to an STI
- When a client asks questions about other STI or HIV prevention methods, including PrEP or access to HIV treatment
- When a client discloses condomless sex with partners
- When a client discloses an STI diagnosis in the past

Key information to include when communicating about doxy PEP with clients or patients include:

- What is doxycycline as STI PEP and what are the benefits
- What does doxy PEP prevent and what does it not prevent
- How to access doxycycline as PEP
- Side effects and safety information
- Costs and how to access it at low or no cost
- STI testing recommendations

WA DOH has a number of FAQs and resources for patients, navigators, and medical providers that can be accessed here: [Doxycycline Postexposure Prophylaxis \(doxy PEP\) | Washington State Department of Health](#)

Use Plain Talk for Doxy PEP Promotion

Taking doxy PEP (the antibiotic doxycycline) after condomless sex — defined by oral, anal or vaginal/front-hole sex when a condom is not used for the entire time — lowers your chance of getting syphilis, gonorrhea and chlamydia. **Doxy PEP works best if taken within 24 hours of condomless sex.**

Take two 100-milligram (mg) pills of doxycycline within 24 hours (and no later than 72 hours) after condomless sex.

Take doxycycline as often as every day when having condomless sex but **do not take more than 200 mg (two 100 mg pills) in a 24-hour period.**

Take the last dose at least 24 hours after the previous one and within 72 hours of the last time you had condomless sex. **Remember that you can take doxy PEP with HIV PrEP or if you are taking HIV treatment!**

Common Client Questions

What does doxy PEP NOT prevent?

Doxy PEP does not prevent HIV, hepatitis A, B, or C, mpox (monkeypox), HPV, or herpes. Although doxy PEP can prevent bacterial STIs, it is not 100% effective. So, you should still get tested regularly.

Will doxy PEP have any side effects?

Most people can take doxycycline without experiencing any problems at all. Side effects that do occur tend to include stomach upset, a burning feeling in the throat, and sensitivity to light. The good news is that these side effects go away when you aren't taking the medication, and they tend to be short lived.

Where can I get doxy PEP?

Most medical providers can prescribe doxy PEP. However, not every medical provider may know about doxy PEP. Additionally, not every medical provider may be willing to prescribe doxy PEP to you. Washington State's list of PrEP DAP contracted providers is a great place to start in identifying potential providers in your area: [PrEP DAP Contracted Provider Map](#).

What will doxy PEP cost for me?

Doxycycline is a relatively cheap medication, but the cost will vary depending on your insurance. A prescription discount card is an option that can provide the medication at a cheaper cost. The discount card is a digital card that can offer up to 80% savings on medication. There is no membership, age limits, income restrictions, or fees to join.

DOH 150-321 May 2025 To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email doh.information@doh.wa.gov.

The discount cards and programs available for doxycycline show the average out-of-pocket cost for 60, 100 mg capsules, to be between \$20 and \$25 in Washington. Here are some discount cards that can be used to cover medications:

- [ArrayRx Card](#)
- [Prescription Price Comparison & Discounts | WellRx](#)
- [Prescription Prices, Coupons & Pharmacy Information - GoodRx](#)

Additionally, Washington State's PrEP Drug Assistance Program (PrEP DAP) can help cover medical and lab costs associated with accessing doxy PEP regardless of your income or insurance coverage. You must go to a PrEP DAP provider that is contracted with DOH to make sure the services are covered. The list of the [providers can be found here](#).

Washington State also has prevention service navigators available to support you in accessing doxyPEP. More information can be found here: [Prevention Service Navigation Providers \(wa.gov\)](#).