Expanding HIV Prevention Access: Linking PrEP Patients to Long-Acting Injectable Lenacapavir Within a Health-System Specialty Pharmacy

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Background

- The long-acting injectable lenacapavir (Yeztugo®), approved on July 19, 2025, introduces a biannual option for HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) that may help overcome adherence barriers associated with daily oral regimens.[1]
- By requiring only twice-yearly injections, lenacapavir has the potential to substantially reduce the cognitive, behavioral, and logistical demands placed on patients using other forms of PrEP, thereby addressing well-documented gaps in real-world adherence and persistence.[2]
- This treatment presents an opportunity for health-system specialty pharmacies (HSSPs) to proactively educate and engage patients on PrEP options.

Objective

To describe the implementation of an HSSP pharmacist-driven workflow designed to identify, educate, and facilitate transition of appropriate oral PrEP patients to long-acting injectable PrEP

Program Implementation

Quality Improvement Initiative

This quality improvement initiative was conducted at a health system located in Portland, Oregon from October 2025 to April 2026.

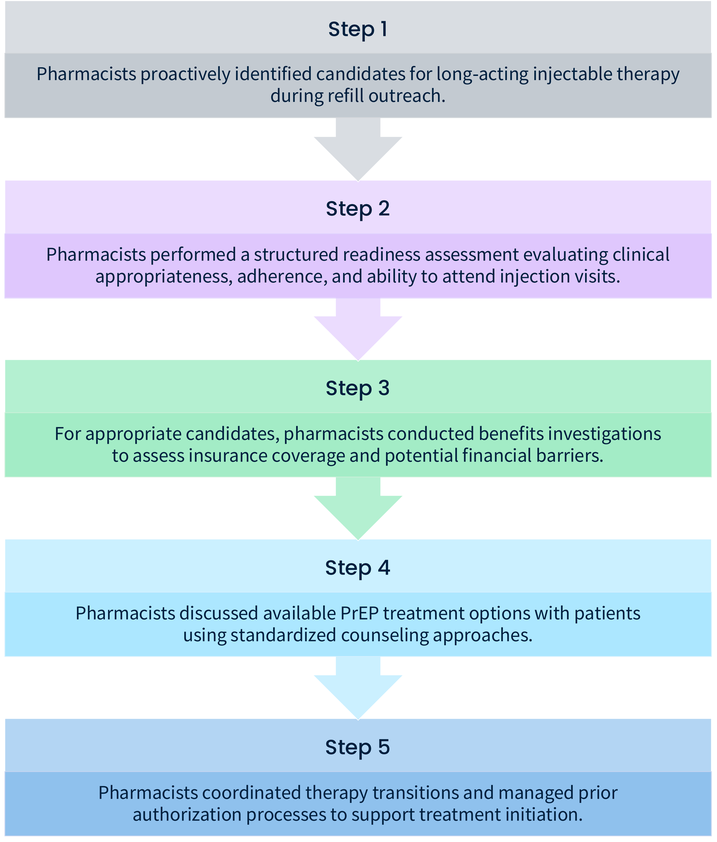
The HSSP team developed a pharmacist-driven workflow (Figure 1) integrated into routine oral PrEP refill encounters to identify and educate patients who may be eligible for long-acting injectable PrEP, including lenacapavir.

Evaluation Measures

- Number of potential patients identified
- Number of patients deemed appropriate for therapy transition
- Number of patients referred for initiation
- Number of patients who initiated therapy
- Types of barriers to therapy transition identified

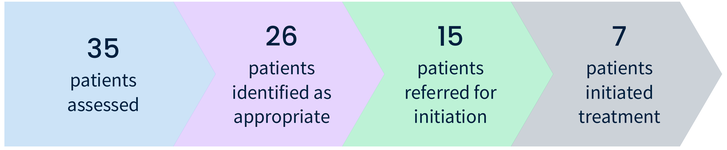
Description

Figure 1: Pharmacist Workflow for PrEP Initiative



Evaluation

Figure 2: Patient Assessment & Transition to Long-Acting Injectable PrEP



Nearly half of referred patients initiated therapy, suggesting strong patient interest and acceptance once referral barriers were addressed.

Barriers to transition included insurance restrictions, drug interactions, delays in required laboratory monitoring, and access challenges related to coordination of medication supply and injection visits.

Discussion & Conclusion

- This HSSP-driven program demonstrates a feasible workflow for integrating long-acting injectable PrEP education and referral into routine pharmacy practice. Integration of these activities into existing refill workflows enabled efficient patient engagement without substantial disruption to pharmacy operations.
- Despite promising uptake among referred patients, several operational and system-level barriers limited broader implementation. Insurance coverage variability, prior authorization requirements, and logistical complexities related to coordinating injection visits and medication acquisition contributed to delays and attrition.
- Future efforts should focus on streamlining access pathways, reducing administrative burden, and evaluating clinical outcomes, persistence, and patient satisfaction associated with long-acting PrEP.

References

[1] Major new policy updates announced at the IAS 2025 conference: WHO recommends injectable lenacapavir for HIV prevention. World Health Organization. July 14, 2025. Accessed March 23, 2026. https://www.who.int/news/item/14-07-2025-who-recommends-injectable-lenacapavir-for-hiv-prevention

[2] Yeztugo® (Lenacapavir) is now the first and only FDA-approved HIV prevention option offering 6 months of protection. Gilead Sciences, Inc. June 18, 2025. Accessed March 23, 2025. https://www.gilead.com/news/news-details/2025/yeztugo-lenacapavir-is-now-the-first-and-only-fda-approved-hiv-prevention-option-offering-6-months-of-protection