



THE PRESCRIBER e-LETTER

Upcoming Changes to Health Safety Net (HSN) Reimbursement of Medications to Treat Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)

The HSN changed the management of HSN formulary on January 12, 2026. More information is on the MassHealth Drug List [HSN Formulary page](#). Please see [Pharmacy Facts](#) 258, 265, 267, 270, and 283 for more information on HSN formulary changes.

Effective October 1, 2026, HSN Is Changing the Management of Medications Used for Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and Post-exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)

Effective October 1, 2026, HSN will require prior authorization (PA) for reimbursement of most brand medications used for PrEP and PEP. Injectable medications used for PrEP will still be reimbursable without PA when billed through the medical setting. Patients should be switched to a reimbursable alternative or have a PA submitted documenting medical necessity for use over reimbursable alternatives. More information on upcoming changes in HSN management of PrEP and PEP is described in the following table.

Reimbursable PrEP and PEP Medications Effective October 1, 2026

Health Safety Net Pharmacy Changes to Management of PrEP and PEP		
Indication	Reimbursable without PA	Reimbursable with PA*
PrEP	tenofovir disoproxil fumarate/emtricitabine	Apretude (cabotegravir) [†] Descovy (tenofovir alafenamide /emtricitabine) Yeztugo (lenacapravir) [†]
PEP	Isentress (raltegravir), ≤28 day supply every 90 days tenofovir disoproxil fumarate /emtricitabine Tivicay (dolutegravir), ≤28 day supply every 90 days	Biktarvy (bictegravir/emtricitabine /tenofovir alafenamide) Descovy (tenofovir alafenamide /emtricitabine)

*PA criteria require appropriate diagnosis, trial(s) of all clinically appropriate alternatives reimbursable without PA, or medical necessity for use instead of alternatives reimbursable without PA.

[†]The HSN formulary is not changing for drugs billed through the medical setting. Patients may continue to access injectable PrEP agents billed through the medical setting. **PA is required for injectable therapies billed through the pharmacy setting.**

HSN patients and pharmacies are also being notified about these changes. If using a medication for HIV treatment, patients must be enrolled in the HIV Drug Assistance Program (HDAP). Emergency supplies are available.

The Prescriber e-Letter is an update designed to enhance the transparency and efficiency of the MassHealth drug prior authorization (PA) process and the MassHealth Drug List. Each issue highlights key clinical information and updates to the MassHealth Drug List. The Prescriber E-Letter was prepared by the MassHealth Drug Utilization Review Program and the MassHealth Pharmacy Program.