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GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor

Office of AIDS (OA)
Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Assistance Program (PrEP-AP)

Management Memorandum
Memorandum Number: 2020-03

DATE: February 03, 2020
TO: PREP-AP ENROLLMENT WORKERS
SUBJECT: **INITIATION OF RAPID ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY (ART) FOR PrEP-AP CLIENTS WHO SEROCONVERT**

Effective February 1, 2020, the OA PrEP-AP will allow for a one-time 30-day dispense of ART to PrEP-AP clients who test positive for HIV.

Background

Immediate initiation of ART after a new HIV diagnosis, also known as rapid ART, has been evaluated in several clinical studies and may be helpful in promoting virologic suppression, medication adherence, and retention in care. These outcomes are consistent with goals outlined in [Laying a Foundation for Getting to Zero: California's Integrated HIV Surveillance, Prevention, and Care Plan](#), which provides the framework for getting to a time when there are: zero new HIV infections, zero AIDS-related deaths, and zero stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV.

New Policy

To ensure that PrEP-AP clients who test positive for HIV receive antiretroviral medications as quickly as possible, PrEP-AP will pay for one 30-day dispense of ART (see the [PrEP-AP formulary](#) for allowable rapid ART regimens). This one-time dispense is intended to allow time for navigation to the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) or other payer sources. ART should be initiated as soon as possible after HIV diagnosis. Providers in the PrEP-AP Clinical Provider Network are encouraged to follow their own internal protocols when initiating rapid ART, or if internal protocols are not available, reference the [San Francisco General Hospital "Rapid" Antiretroviral Therapy Standard Operating Procedures](#) or contact the Clinician Consultation Center at (800) 933-3413 for a phone consultation.

Providers are also encouraged to navigate individuals who test positive to enroll in ADAP by referring them to a certified [ADAP enrollment site](#) and to a local [Ryan White clinic](#) for follow-up care and treatment. Providers should also fill out the [ADAP Diagnosis Form](#) to confirm an HIV diagnosis and facilitate enrollment into ADAP. The [PrEP-AP Provider Referral Form for Uninsured Clients](#) has been updated to provide instruction on initiating rapid ART.

PrEP-AP to ADAP Transition

The ADAP Diagnosis Form and PrEP-AP Provider Referral Form for Uninsured Clients must be completely filled out by the attending provider and returned to the client. Due to confidentiality and privacy concerns, these documents are precluded from being sent directly to the PrEP-AP enrollment site by the provider for clients who test positive for HIV, as the site performing PrEP-AP enrollment may not be a certified ADAP enrollment site.

To minimize the burden on new clients, new PrEP-AP clients who enrolled in the PrEP-AP within 30 days of their new diagnosis will be able to enroll in ADAP without having to re-provide eligibility documents. The only new document that will need to be provided is the ADAP Diagnosis Form to verify the client is HIV positive. Enrollment workers (EWs) at dual ADAP/PrEP-AP enrollment sites should download existing eligibility documents from the existing PrEP-AP application in the ADAP Enrollment System (AES), dis-enroll the client from PrEP-AP, and then re-enroll the client into ADAP using the existing eligibility documents. The PrEP-AP Provider Referral Form indicating the client's HIV diagnosis cannot be used to document the client's HIV positive status – the EW will need to upload the ADAP Diagnosis Form to satisfy this requirement. Existing PrEP-AP clients may be able to leverage existing eligibility documents if documents are dated within acceptable date ranges. Eligibility documents that exceed acceptable date ranges must be resubmitted to enroll in ADAP. EWs at PrEP-AP Only enrollment sites must disenroll the newly diagnosed as HIV positive client from PrEP-AP and must provide the client with a referral to an active ADAP enrollment site. The PrEP-AP EW should printout, and provide to the client, any applicable eligibility documents that are within acceptable date ranges, along with an ADAP Diagnosis Form, which the client would need to take to an active ADAP enrollment site to enroll into ADAP.

Please contact your [ADAP Advisor](#) if you have any questions regarding the information provided in this memo.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sandra Robinson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sandra Robinson, MBA
ADAP Branch Chief
California Department of Public Health