

Amplifying equitable access to oral and injectable PrEP through community pharmacies

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Overview

- 1** Long-acting injectable PrEP for HIV prevention
- 2** Legislative context for PrEP in California
- 3** Findings of the 2022 California Pharmacist Study
- 4** Aims of the 2025 California Pharmacist Study
- 5** Discussion & feedback

HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)

- **Daily oral PrEP** medications have been available in the U.S. since 2012 (e.g., Truvada) and are effective for HIV prevention with consistent use.¹⁻²
- PrEP uptake and continuation are hindered by inequities in healthcare access and other barriers.²
- Many current and potential PrEP users would prefer to use **long-acting injectable PrEP**,³⁻⁴ which may reduce adherence challenges and perceived stigma compared to oral PrEP.



¹ USPSTF, *JAMA*, 2023; ² Sullivan, *AJMC*, 2024; ³ John, *AIDS Behav*, 2017; ⁴ Gordon, *Qual Health Res*, 2025

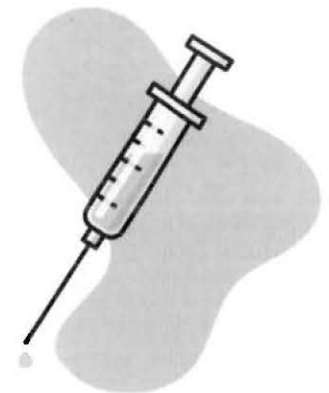
Long-acting injectable PrEP (LAI PrEP)

Cabotegravir (CAB-LA):

- Administered as an intramuscular injection in the ventrogluteal muscle every 2 months
- Received FDA approval in 2021¹

Lenacapavir (LEN for PrEP):

- Administered as a subcutaneous injection in the abdomen every 6 months
- Gilead applied for FDA approval in late 2024² after phase 3 trials demonstrated high efficacy and superiority to oral PrEP³⁻⁴



¹ FDA, 2021; ² Gilead, 2024; ³ Bekker, *NEJM*, 2024; ⁴ Kelley, *NEJM*, 2024 (image by [vectorportal.com](https://www.vectorportal.com), CC BY)

Legislative context for PrEP in California



Senate Bill 159 (2019):

- Enabled pharmacists to furnish PrEP for up to 60 days
- Implementation became possible in late 2020 with launch of the required training program

Senate Bill 339 (2024):

- Expands time limits for pharmacist-initiated PrEP to 90 days and beyond under certain conditions
- Expands drugs to include those recommended by the CDC

The 2022 California Pharmacist Study



- Online survey of **919 pharmacists and pharmacy students in fall 2022**, primarily recruited via CPhA and CSHP listservs
- Despite supportive attitudes about PrEP provision, **only 11% reported that their pharmacy offered PrEP** under SB 159.¹
- Many reported being **willing to provide LAI PrEP** under enabling conditions.²

¹Hunter, *OFID*, 2023; ²Beltran, *JAIDS*, 2024 → For more: californiapharmaciststudy.com/publications

The 2025 California Pharmacist Study

Aim 1. Describe trends in pharmacy-based access to oral and LAI PrEP in California pharmacies and identify high-priority areas where PrEP access via pharmacies is limited.

- Statewide representative **cross-sectional survey of 1,000 community pharmacies** in California in 2025:
 - “Mystery client” pharmacy phone survey to **quantify uptake of pharmacist-initiated oral and LAI PrEP delivery**
 - Individual surveys (phone or online) with pharmacists, pharmacist managers, and/or pharmacy owners at sampled pharmacies to **uncover barriers to and facilitators of PrEP provision**

The 2025 California Pharmacist Study

Aim 2. Reveal implementation opportunities and needs of pharmacists and PrEP users in anticipation of LEN for PrEP rollout.

- Discrete choice experiment (DCE) with ~500 pharmacists, pharmacist managers, and/or pharmacy owners to **elicit preferences for LAI PrEP implementation**
- **Key informant interviews** with 10 pharmacists and 10 people who could benefit from PrEP to contextualize survey and DCE data

Feedback & Discussion

- In the 2022 survey, lack of reimbursement/funding for PrEP services emerged as a **critical barrier** to implementation.

What should be measured in 2025 to:

- Shed light on progress or persistent implementation barriers?
 - Inform targeted implementation to address disparities in access?
 - Advance policy discussions?
- Audiences to prioritize for dissemination



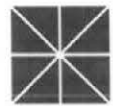
Thank you!

If additional comments or questions,
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