



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES
Bureau for Public Health
Commissioner's Office

Sherri A. Young, DO, MBA, FAAFP
Interim Cabinet Secretary

Matthew Q. Christiansen, MD, MPH
Commissioner & State Health Officer

August 31, 2023

Dear Pharmacists:

Thank you for being a valued pharmacy partner in West Virginia. I am writing to inform you that the Bureau for Public Health (BPH) has recently implemented doxycycline as sexually transmitted infection (STI) post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), also known as DoxyPEP. This is a targeted intervention for bacterial STIs that can potentially reduce STI acquisition and transmission. DoxyPEP involves taking 200mg of doxycycline ideally within 24 hours, but no later than 72 hours after condomless oral, anal, or vaginal sex.

An NIH-funded study published by the New England Journal of Medicine in April 2023 found that DoxyPEP reduced syphilis by 87%, chlamydia by 88%, and gonorrhea by 55% in individuals taking HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). Moreover, DoxyPEP reduced syphilis by 77%, chlamydia by 74%, and gonorrhea by 57% in people living with HIV (PLWH). More information on the study can be found [here](#). This current efficacy data only applies to gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM) and transgender women. Studies among heterosexual cis-gender women are ongoing.

You may begin to see DoxyPEP prescriptions from providers for doxycycline hyclate or doxycycline monohydrate immediate release 100mg tablets, or doxycycline hyclate delayed release 200mg tablets. Either dosing option will suffice, but the immediate release options may be cheaper and more accessible based on cost and insurance coverage. Please work with providers and patients to ensure that they have access to the DoxyPEP option that is most affordable.

Providers have been advised to write for 30 doses of DoxyPEP with at least one refill. This will ensure that the patient has enough on hand to utilize as PEP based on their personal needs. Providers will monitor patients closely and will continue to follow-up with them as clinically necessary, including regular STI testing every three months.

If you have any questions about the DoxyPEP prescription, please contact the ordering provider rather than publicly asking the patient about their reason for the prescription. If you have any questions about DoxyPEP guidelines, please contact BPH's Division of STD, HIV, Hepatitis, and Tuberculosis at (304) 558-2195 or visit the STI Program webpage at www.oeps.wv.gov/std.

Thank you for ensuring that we continue to have access to safe and effective sexual health medications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matthew Q. Christiansen".

Matthew Q. Christiansen, MD, MPH
Commissioner & State Health Officer