

## *HIV Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Medication Change*

**Date:** November 2, 2015  
**To:** Central Zone Physicians and Emergency Departments  
**From:** Dr. Deena Hinshaw, on behalf of Medical Officers of Health, Central Zone

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Colleagues:

To align with Alberta Health's new recommendations for HIV post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), the PEP starter kits stocked in emergency departments in the zone will be changed, effective November 10. The new recommendations are in the updated guideline for post-exposure management and prophylaxis for HIV, Hepatitis B and C, and sexually transmitted infections, available at <http://www.health.alberta.ca/documents/PEP-Guidelines-2015.pdf>. You may be interested to look at the kits to see the new contents, including information for patients.

Basic two-drug kits will be unchanged – a seven-day supply of Truvada® (tenofovir – emtricitabine). In particularly high-risk situations, a third medication may be added. The new medication in these supplementary kits is Tivicay® (dolutegravir). The MOH and Communicable Disease Control (CDC) nurse or Occupational Health Nurse (OHN) on call will assist with the risk determination and recommendations.

The use of these kits continues to be reserved for patients who have been exposed to blood or body fluids ONLY when there is both a significant mechanism (e.g. hollow-bore needle stick injury with fresh blood on the needle) AND a high-risk or known HIV-positive source. These starter kits are the first week of a recommended four week course of prophylaxis, therefore **please note that kits should only be released after approval by the Medical Officer of Health (MOH) on call** to ensure standardized risk assessment and appropriate follow-up.

Pediatric exposures will be dealt with as special cases and, if high-risk, the MOH will assist with urgent referral to a pediatric ID specialist. Pediatric patients under 12 years of age should not be given the medications in the available starter kits.

If HIV PEP is recommended, the Poison & Drug Information Service (PADIS) is available for you to review possible drug interactions at 1-800-332-1414. When a kit is used, please document patient information on the form included in the kit, and submit to pharmacy to receive a replacement.

Reporting:

- AHS occupational blood and body fluid exposures (BBFE) should be reported to the Occupational Health Nurse (OHN) on call during office hours at 403-343-4620, extension 3, or after hours at 403-396-0703.
- Covenant occupational BBFE should be reported to 1-855-342-8070, extension 1.
- For assistance with high-risk community BBFE cases, please call the CDC nurse on call during office hours at 403-356-6420 or after hours at 403-391-8027.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the numbers below.

Sincerely,

Dr. Deena Hinshaw  
Medical Officer of Health  
Alberta Health Services, Central Zone