

# Referrals

## Who can make a referral?

Referrals can be taken from all providers, county health departments, community based organizations, or individuals.

## How do I make a referral?

For instructions and to refer your patients, see form ODH 1397. You can access the form on the OSDH website at [shhr.health.ok.gov](http://shhr.health.ok.gov) or scan the QR code.



## Tips for completing the referral form:

- Be sure to indicate which service you are enrolling the patient in, i.e. Rapid Start or PrEP, at the top of the form.
- Please ensure you provide the most reliable contact information for your patients. Accurate information helps ensure rapid follow up.

Completed forms may be emailed to [RapidStart@health.ok.gov](mailto:RapidStart@health.ok.gov) or faxed to 405-900-7586.

## How long will it take for my patients to be contacted after I send a referral?

Patients can expect to be contacted by a nurse practitioner from OSDH within one week of receiving a completed referral form. The goal of the RapidStart program is to have patients evaluated and started on Antiretroviral therapy within seven days of their HIV result.

## Rapid Start Contact

Ivonna Mims MPH, RN  
SHHR STD Consultant,  
Rapid Start Manager  
[RapidStart@health.ok.gov](mailto:RapidStart@health.ok.gov)  
Phone: 405-426-8400  
Fax: 405-900-7586



## Oklahoma State Department of Health

Sexual Health and Harm  
Reduction Services  
123 Robert S. Kerr Ave.  
Oklahoma City, OK  
Phone: 405-426-8400

[SHHRService@health.ok.gov](mailto:SHHRService@health.ok.gov)

This publication was issued by the OSDH, an equal opportunity employer and provider. A digital file has been deposited with the Publications Clearinghouse of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries in compliance with section 3-114 of Title 65 of the Oklahoma Statutes and is available for download at [documents.ok.gov](http://documents.ok.gov).  
| Issued May 2022

# RAPID START AND PREP PROGRAM



OKLAHOMA  
State Department  
of Health



SEXUAL HEALTH &  
HARM REDUCTION  
SERVICE

## What is the Rapid Start and PrEP Program at OSDH?

This program offers providers a way to connect their patients with critical HIV treatment and preventive services. This includes Rapid Start for patients newly diagnosed with HIV and PrEP for HIV-negative patients who could benefit from pre-exposure prophylaxis.

## Rapid Start

### How will Rapid Start benefit my patients newly diagnosed with HIV?

People newly diagnosed with HIV should be prescribed antiretroviral therapy (ART) as soon as possible. With proper treatment, people with HIV can remain healthy for many years and achieve an undetectable viral load. ART is recommended for all people with HIV, regardless of CD4 count.

### Early diagnosis followed by prompt ART initiation:

- Reduces HIV-associated morbidity and mortality
- Greatly decreases HIV transmission to others
- May reduce the risk of serious non-AIDS related diseases

### What services does the Rapid Start Program cover?

OSDH nurse practitioners help get patients evaluated and started on ART within seven days of their HIV result.

#### Highlights of the Rapid Start program:

- No insurance or citizenship status is required
- First month of medication is free
- Initial screening/exam is free
- Connection to case management
- Enrollment in the Oklahoma HIV Drug Assistance Program
- Connection to continuity of care

## PrEP

### How will PrEP benefit my HIV-negative patients at risk for acquiring HIV?

Pre-exposure Prophylaxis is medicine people at risk for HIV take to prevent getting HIV.

### How Effective Is PrEP?

PrEP is highly effective for preventing HIV. It greatly reduces the risk of getting HIV from sex when taken as prescribed. Although there is less information about how effective PrEP is among people who inject drugs, we do know that PrEP lowers the risk of getting HIV when taken as prescribed.

### Are There Different Types of PrEP?

Two medications are approved for use as PrEP: Truvada® and Descovy®.

- Truvada® is for all people at risk through sex or injection drug use.
- Descovy® is for people at risk through sex, except for people assigned female at birth who are at risk of getting HIV from vaginal sex.

#### Highlights of the PrEP program:

- The nurse practitioners take care of all labs, exams and medications free of charge
- Assistance with connection to Ready, Set, PrEP or Advancing Access to continue to receive medication free of charge
- PrEP clients are seen by the nurse practitioners every three months for follow-up and medication refills — at home visits, virtual visits or in a county health department or CBO

