



WNCAP

Western North Carolina AIDS Project

ALL SERVICES
ARE FREE
AND CONFIDENTIAL
1-828-252-7489
or **1-800-346-3731**
www.wncap.org



A NEW TOOL TO PREVENT HIV INFECTION

Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is an HIV prevention tool in which an HIV-negative person takes antiretroviral medication to reduce the risk of contracting HIV. Currently, the available form of PrEP entails taking the pill Truvada, which is made of two drugs—tenofovir and emtricitabine. When these meds build up in the human body, they can stop HIV from establishing an infection. PrEP was approved in 2012 by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) with the requirement that it be used every day, even during periods of minimal or low-risk sexual activity. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends Truvada for those at high risk of HIV, including:

- Those in a relationship with an HIV-positive partner
- Men who don't use condoms when having sex with men
- Men who have been diagnosed with a sexually transmitted infection (STI) in the past six months and who are not in a mutually monogamous relationship with an HIV-negative partner
- Heterosexuals who don't always use condoms for sex with partners who are themselves at high risk for HIV
- Anyone who, in the past six months, has shared equipment when injecting drugs or who has been in an injection drug treatment program.

If you are interested in exploring PrEP, please discuss it with your medical provider. Western North Carolina Community Health Services (WNCCHS) at 257 Biltmore Avenue has a PrEP program for established patients. To become an established WNCCHS patient, you can go by the front office and complete a hardcopy application or download an application at:

<http://www.wncchs.org/Becoming-a-Patient-Engaging-in-Care.html>



GET OUT THE VOTE!

Harness your inner advocate this November and go out and vote! The last day to register to vote is October 14.

A WIN FOR HARM REDUCTION EFFORTS IN NC



During North Carolina's annual HIV/AIDS Advocacy Day on June 7, a delegation of WNCAP advocates visited 10 elected lawmakers at the North Carolina General Assembly to discuss important legislative issues including the increasing need for Medicaid expansion in our state, and legalization of syringe exchange programs (SEPs). On July 11th Governor McCrory signed House Bill 972 which now legalizes syringe exchange programs in North Carolina.

How Does It Work?

Some of the same medicines prescribed for the treatment of HIV can also be prescribed for its prevention

In several studies of PrEP, the risk of getting HIV infection was much lower — up to 92% lower — for those who took the medicines consistently than for those who didn't take the pill

WITH MEDICINE

WITHOUT MEDICINE

92% LOWER RISK

When taken every day, PrEP can provide a high level of protection against HIV, and is even more effective when it is combined with condoms and other prevention tools

People who use PrEP must take the medicine every day and return to their health care provider every 3 months for repeat testing for HIV and sexually transmitted diseases, prescription refills, and follow up

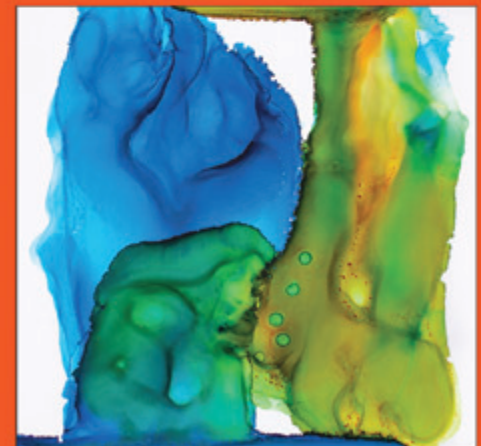
SIDE EFFECTS

Some people in clinical studies of PrEP had early side effects such as an upset stomach or loss of appetite, but these were mild and usually went away in the first month. Some people also had a mild headache. No serious side effects were observed. You should tell your health care provider if these or other symptoms become severe or do not go away.

ANNUAL

RAISE YOUR HAND AUCTION SET FOR OCTOBER 1ST

WNCAP is proud to announce the winner of the 2016 Raise Your Hand Signature Piece competition, Constance Williams represented by Surface Gallery, in Biltmore Village. The Raise Your Hand Auction and Gala takes place on Saturday, October 1st at the Asheville Event Centre on Sweeten Creek Road. The Raise Your Hand Auction and Gala provides funds for HIV prevention and client medical case management for men, women and children living with HIV/AIDS in 18 western counties. The event owes much of its success to the generous donations from the art community, antique dealers, small local businesses, and restaurants, as well as a group of dedicated volunteers. Find out more about this fun-filled annual fundraiser at: www.wncapgala.org



"Distillation Series -- Blue Green" by Constance Williams
48-by-48-inch alcohol-ink painting on aluminum board.