

USPSTF suggests universal HIV screening, PrEP for high-risk patients

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(HealthDay)—The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommends HIV screening for individuals aged 15 to 65 years, including all pregnant women, and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) should be offered to those at high risk of HIV. These findings form the basis of three draft recommendation statements published online Nov. 20 by the USPSTF.

Roger Chou, M.D., from Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, and colleagues reviewed the evidence for HIV screening in adolescents and adults. The authors did not find any studies on benefits or harms of screening versus no screening. In two new randomized controlled trials, initiation of [antiretroviral therapy](#) in people with CD4 counts >500 cells/mm³ correlated with a reduced risk for composite clinical outcomes. In a second evidence review, Chou and colleagues evaluated recommendations on HIV screening in pregnancy. The [researchers](#) found that antiretroviral therapy was highly effective for reducing the risk of mother-to-child HIV infection

transmission, especially if started early in pregnancy.

In a third review, Chou and colleagues examined the [evidence](#) for the effects of PrEP on HIV acquisition, mortality, harms, and other clinical outcomes. The researchers found that PrEP correlated with a reduced risk for HIV infection versus placebo or no PrEP in populations at higher risk for acquiring HIV infection (11 trials, relative risk, 0.46).

These findings form the basis of three draft recommendation statements, which are available for comment from Nov. 20 to Dec. 26, 2018.

More information: [Draft Evidence Review - Adolescents/Adults](#)
[Draft Recommendation Statement - Adolescents/Adults](#)
[Comment on Recommendation Statement - Adolescents/Adults](#)
[Draft Evidence Review - Pregnancy](#)
[Draft Recommendation Statement - Pregnancy](#)
[Comment on Recommendation Statement - Pregnancy](#)
[Draft Evidence Review - PrEP](#)
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