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# PEP

## Post Exposure Prophylaxis

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A course of treatment that should be taken immediately after exposure to the HIV virus, in order to prevent HIV infection.

## What is PEP?

PEP (Post Exposure Prophylaxis) is a treatment with antiretroviral drugs for one month, that may prevent HIV infection. PEP should be taken as soon as possible from the moment of exposure to the virus, ideally within the first 24 hours and certainly within 72 hours.

## How can someone take PEP?

The Gregorios Clinic has stock of antiretrovirals for such cases. You are advised to visit the Clinic and discuss the incident with the doctor. If the doctor assesses that you should take prophylactic treatment, the hospital will provide you with the medication for free. The medication lasts for 4 weeks.

## Will I need to test for HIV?

Yes. In order to receive PEP you must have an HIV test to make sure you have not already been exposed to the virus. You should get tested after completing the treatment, in order to confirm with your doctor that the treatment was effective.

## Does PEP have side effects?

Sometimes it may have side effects that you should report to your doctor. The side effects usually resolve after the first few days and definitely after the treatment is completed.

At Cy Checkpoint, the Testing and Prevention Centre for HIV and other Sexually Transmitted Infections, by AIDS Solidarity Movement, you can take a free, rapid and anonymous HIV test. For the testing program visit: [www.asmCyprus.org](http://www.asmCyprus.org)  
Contact us at: 9960 7005

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