

## Checklist: Policy Components that Expand Access to HIV Prevention and Linkage to Care via Community Pharmacies

This section offers a variety of policy components that can work together to create an enabling environment for the expansion of pharmacist-provided HIV prevention services. By addressing the key barriers of scope of practice, payment/reimbursement, general prevention services, and additional education, policies can help ensure that all patients have access to the essential HIV prevention services they need.

### SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMPONENTS

Policies that expand pharmacists' scope of practice directly impact and enhance community pharmacies' roles in HIV prevention and linkage to care services.

COMPONENT	ACTION ✨	IMPACT
Maximize Prescriptive Authority	<input type="checkbox"/> Allow pharmacists to prescribe and administer PrEP directly to patients, in any form.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✨ Enhances patient access to critical HIV prevention services.</li> </ul>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Allow pharmacists to prescribe and administer PEP directly to patients.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✨ Streamlines the care delivery process.</li> <li>✨ Promotes timely intervention.</li> </ul>
Remove Referral Requirement	<input type="checkbox"/> Eliminate the need for a referral from a physician for patients to access HIV prevention services from pharmacists.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✨ Streamlines access to HIV prevention services.</li> <li>✨ Ensures patients can promptly receive necessary care.</li> <li>✨ Encourages early intervention.</li> <li>✨ Protects the health of the patient.</li> <li>✨ May lead to a decrease in new HIV cases.</li> </ul>
Order and Administer HIV Screening and Counseling	<input type="checkbox"/> Enable community pharmacy locations to order and administer HIV screening to expand access for patients.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✨ Facilitates early diagnosis and linkage to care.</li> </ul>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Allow pharmacists to provide counseling on wrap-around services and linkage to care if a patient's screening indicates the need for additional testing or treatment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✨ Leads to better patient outcomes and reduced transmission.</li> </ul>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ensure that testing authority is broad and encompasses all CLIA-waived tests and does not exclude others tests that fall within the same parameters.	

## PAYMENT AND REIMBURSEMENT COMPONENTS

A lack of reimbursement for services can be a significant barrier to pharmacist-provided HIV prevention and linkage to care. Policies that address payment and reimbursement can help incentivize community pharmacies' involvement in providing HIV prevention services.

COMPONENT	ACTION ✨	IMPACT
Comparable Coverage or Pay Parity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Require public and commercial health plans to pay pharmacists for HIV prevention services.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Require payment at a rate equivalent to that of other similar-level healthcare professionals to ensure equivalent compensation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✨ Aligns payment practices with the value of pharmacist-provided services.</li> </ul>
Direct Medical Benefit Billing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Allow pharmacists to bill Medicaid and commercial payors directly for HIV prevention services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✨ Simplifies reimbursement processes.</li> <li>✨ Reduces administrative burdens.</li> <li>✨ Promotes patient accessibility to promote health equity.</li> </ul>
Flexible Service Settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Enable pharmacists to provide HIV prevention services in community pharmacies.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Enable pharmacists to provide HIV prevention services via telehealth platforms and other convenient locations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✨ Extends the reach of HIV prevention efforts.</li> <li>✨ Makes services more accessible to patients.</li> <li>✨ May reduce concerns about HIV-related stigma.</li> </ul>














## GENERAL PREVENTION SERVICE COMPONENTS

For some states, the most effective way to expand pharmacists' ability to provide HIV prevention and linkage to care services may not be centrally focused on HIV but, rather, on policies that provide authority and payment for the provision of prevention services.

COMPONENT	ACTION ✨	IMPACT
General Prevention Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Provide authority to state BOPs to identify the prevention services authorized for pharmacy practice, while not limiting the core goal of increased access to services.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Allow state BOPs the authority to develop corresponding statewide protocols for prevention services, while not adding additional mandates beyond the legislative requirements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✨ Expands community pharmacies' roles in prevention services.</li> <li>✨ Indirectly provides a pathway for pharmacies' involvement in HIV prevention.</li> </ul> <p>*See <a href="#">Impact in Action: Tennessee</a> and <a href="#">Impact in Action: Idaho</a></p>
Statewide Protocols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Allow statewide protocols authorized by a state regulatory body, often a state BOP, that extend to all licensed pharmacists meeting specified qualifications.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✨ Delineates standards for pharmacy practice within general prevention services.</li> <li>✨ Empowers pharmacists to offer preventive care without physician prescriptions.</li> <li>✨ Enhances healthcare accessibility and patient outcomes</li> <li>✨ Creates protocols informed by collaboration with stakeholders (e.g., pharmacists, physicians, public health officials, and advocacy groups).</li> </ul> <p>*See <a href="#">Impact in Action: Virginia</a></p>

## ADDITIONAL POLICY COMPONENTS

Policies that promote training, education, and public awareness can also be powerful tools in HIV prevention.

COMPONENT	ACTION 	IMPACT
Invest in Training and Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Allocate funding for training and education programs for pharmacists.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Allow for flexibility in training standards without prescribing detailed training programs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Equips pharmacists with the skills and knowledge necessary to provide effective HIV prevention services.</li> <li> Ensures that pharmacists are well-prepared to deliver high-quality care.</li> <li> Contributes to better patient outcomes and the overall success of HIV prevention programs.</li> <li> Prevents legislation that may become out of date or cumbersome to implement.</li> </ul>
Public Awareness Campaigns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Develop public awareness campaigns to educate patients about the crucial role pharmacists play in providing HIV prevention services, reducing stigma, and increasing awareness.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Increases patient knowledge about the role of pharmacists in HIV prevention.</li> <li> Encourages individuals to access essential care.</li> <li> Contributes to a more informed and healthier community</li> <li> Reduces stigma.</li> </ul>

**SEE THE IMPACT IN ACTION**

