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 ***Legacy Community Health will offer Cabenuva, Apretude,***

***first injectable medications for HIV treatment and HIV prevention***

**HOUSTON – (February 11, 2022) –** In January 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced the approval of Cabenuva, the first injectable treatment for HIV treatment. In December, the FDA approved Apretude, the first injectable treatment for HIV prevention. Legacy Community Health will be offering both of these life-changing methods of treatment and prevention to help end the HIV epidemic.

Cabenuva is the first FDA-approved injectable, complete regimen for HIV-infected adults, and requires monthly injection by a healthcare professional. Like other antiretroviral treatment (ART) regimens, Cabenuva works by helping the patient achieve an undetectable viral load, which is where ART has reduced your HIV to such small quantities that it can no longer be detected by standard blood tests. People living with HIV who have an undetectable viral load cannot pass HIV on through sex.

Apretude is a new, long-acting injectable pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) option proven superior to daily oral HIV prevention medications in reducing HIV acquisition. It is indicated for adolescents and adults at risk of sexually acquiring HIV.

According to America’s HIV Epidemic Analysis Dashboard (AHEAD), in Harris County, the HIV viral suppression rate in 2019 was at 57%. The Dashboard tracks national and jurisdictional progress leading to the overarching goal of the initiative: reducing new HIV transmissions 75% by 2025. The goal in 2019 was for the suppression rate in Harris County to reach 95%.

“An injectable like Cabenuva should help raise the suppression rate in Harris County,” says Ruston Taylor, Senior Director of Pharmacy Clinical Services & Outreach at Legacy Community Health. “Apretude works on the other end of the fight, helping to prevent transmission to those who are HIV negative.” However, not everyone is a candidate for these medications.

“We’re really trying to create a different paradigm here at Wellness Bar,” says Maggie White, nurse practitioner at Wellness Bar by Legacy. “These drugs represent a different model for delivering care for patients, both treatment and prevention. The reality is that lots of people have trouble remembering to take their daily pill, whether that’s PrEP or ART. The vast majority of patients who have been on PrEP and contracted HIV have done so because they missed doses of PrEP. Apretude can eliminate that. Scheduling out these doses will do wonders for medication management and adherence.”

“Patients don’t have to worry about $15 for parking or navigating a huge hospital complex,” White continues. “Wellness Bar is discreet, laid back – like coming into a nail salon every few weeks, but you’re getting your injection. We provide a wellness service; it doesn’t feel like a doctor’s office or infectious disease clinic.”

“These drugs are a game-changer for folks who forget to take a daily pill, people with gastrointestinal issues who have trouble with oral medications, and will even help eliminate the unfortunate stigma around having a bottle of medication to treatment/prevention HIV visible on the bathroom counter,” White says. “People whose housing is insecure will benefit, too. If they make an appointment for these injectables, they can rely on their appointments and eliminate the hassle of carrying pills.”

With in-house Legacy pharmacies, Legacy Montrose and Wellness Bar by Legacy will serve as one-stop-shops for patients interested in utilizing Cabenuva or Apretude as part of their personal toolkits for ending the HIV epidemic.

Legacy accepts Medicare, Medicare Advantage, Medicaid and most HMO/PPOs. Eligibility specialists are available to discuss sliding scale fees and potential programs to help lower the cost of health care services.

Long-acting injectable HIV treatment & prevention is now available at Legacy Montrose & Wellness Bar. Start today—walk-in or make an appointment. For more information, call (832) 548-5000 or visit [www.legacycommunityhealth.org/gettested](http://www.legacycommunityhealth.org/gettested) to schedule an appointment.

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**About Legacy Community Health, Inc.:**Legacy Community Health Services “(Legacy”) is a full-service network of over 50 community health centers offering primary and specialty care, and pharmacy services in the Texas Gulf Coast region. Legacy has been innovating how comprehensive, quality health care services are provided to underserved communities for over 40 years. As the largest Federally Qualiﬁed Health Center (FQHC) in Texas, our services and programs are open to all, regardless of the ability to pay, without judgment or exception. Legacy has been a United Way affiliated agency since 1990. To learn more, visit [www.legacycommunityhealth.org](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.legacycommunityhealth.org%2F&data=04%7C01%7CIsabella.Wiltse%40edelman.com%7Cfed083b5beb246e2203c08d9af61f7a1%7Cb824bfb3918e43c2bb1cdcc1ba40a82b%7C0%7C0%7C637733657748039378%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=CiWig9UHYPciwfWn6owp2GYKuhGNyohvxLzuq8XXkEE%3D&reserved=0).