

Will the chemist provide me information about HIV medication & how they may affect other medications I am taking?

Yes, pharmacists in chemists can tell you on how HIV medications may affect other medicines, the side effects and if they may be harmful.

Your doctor can also give you this information. Speaking to your doctor about this is especially important if you have your HIV medications sent to you by the online chemist.

Do you have problems paying for your HIV medications?

Bobby Goldsmith Foundation (BGF) provides financial assistance for buying HIV medications for some people. For more information contact BGF: www.bgf.org.au.

If you are not able to get assistance from BGF, and the cost stops you from starting or staying on HIV medication, ask your doctor about advice, support and other services.

For more Information

Talk to your doctor, nurse, sexual health centre, pharmacist, Positive Life NSW, Multicultural HIV and Hepatitis Service, Bobby Goldsmith Foundation or ACON.

POSITIVE LIFE NSW

02 9206 2177
Freecall – 1800 245 677

MULTICULTURAL HIV & HEPATITIS SERVICE

02 9515 1234
Freecall – 1800 108 098

BOBBY GOLDSMITH FOUNDATION

02 9283 8666
Freecall – 1800 651 011

ACON

02 9206 2000
Freecall – 1800 063 060

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

Freecall - 1800 303 270

PositiveLifeNSW
the voice of people with HIV since 1988

Getting HIV treatments from chemists - The choice is yours

From 1 July 2015, people living with HIV will be able to get HIV medications from chemists

The Australian Government is providing more ways for people living with HIV to get their medications.

What do I need to do?

You can still get your HIV medications from a hospital chemist but from 1 July 2015 you will also be able to get your HIV medications from some local chemists.

Will it cost more?

The cost will be the same.

What are my choices after 1 July 2015?

There will be three ways of getting HIV medications:

1) FROM HOSPITAL CHEMISTS

2) FROM LOCAL CHEMISTS

Chemists need to choose if they want to be part of this system. Check with your local chemist if they give out HIV medications.

Talk to your chemist about getting your medications without having to wait or if you will need to leave the prescription and pick up the medications later.

In the inner city areas of Sydney you probably will be able to get your HIV medications without waiting.

If you live in an outer suburb of Sydney or other areas in NSW, you may need to leave your prescription with the chemist and pick up your medications a few days later.

Some chemists may deliver your medication to your home for free. The names of the medications will not be on the package when they are delivered..

3) FROM ONLINE CHEMISTS

This is a good way to have medications posted to your home or another address.

Will my personal information be kept private by the chemist?

Yes, your information will be kept private in the same way by a hospital chemist or a local chemist.

If you are worried about your privacy, you can ask to speak to the pharmacist in private.

If your personal information is not kept private by staff working at the chemist, talk to the person in charge. If you are not happy with the result, you can make a complaint to one of the services below:

HEALTH CARE COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

<http://www.hccc.nsw.gov.au/>

AUSTRALIAN HEALTH PRACTITIONER REGULATION AGENCY

<http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Notifications.aspx>

THE PRIVACY COMMISSIONER

<http://www.oaic.gov.au/privacy/privacy-complaints>

Can I have my HIV medications delivered?

Yes, you can get your HIV medications sent to you in the mail.

You can buy your HIV medications from online chemists. Search the internet for the different online chemists.

TIPS

- Prescriptions need to be dated 1 July 2015 or after for them to be accepted
- Plan ahead when you need a new prescription and allow time for the chemist to order your medications
- Get to know your pharmacist
- Talk to your pharmacist about what you need
- If it is easier to have your HIV medications sent to your home or other address, you can do this through an online chemist