

Will the chemist be able to provide information about HIV medication & other drug interactions?

Yes, pharmacists in chemists should be able to advise on drug interactions, side effects and toxicity.

Your doctor will also be a valuable source of information on these issues as well. If you have your HIV drugs delivered via an online chemist, you'll need to tell your prescriber, so they can discuss drug interactions with you. This will increase your responsibility as you'll have one less person (the pharmacist) to provide advice when receiving your drugs from an online chemist.

Experiencing financial hardship & difficulties buying HIV medications?

From 1 October 2015, HIV medications are free in NSW when dispensed by either your local chemist or a hospital pharmacy.

To be free, your prescription will need to be dated after 1 October 2015 and be accompanied by a patient consent form which will be provided by your doctor or can be downloaded from The Choice is Yours web site at <http://thechoiceisyours.positivelife.org.au/>

## For more Information

Talk to your doctor, nurse, sexual health centre, pharmacist, Positive Life NSW or ACON.

### **POSITIVE LIFE NSW**

02 9206 2177  
Freecall – 1800 245 677

### **ACON**

02 9206 2000  
Freecall – 1800 063 060

### **BOBBY GOLDSMITH FOUNDATION**

02 9283 8666  
Freecall – 1800 651 011

### **PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA**

Freecall - 1800 303 270

### **CLINICIANS CALL ASHM**

02 8204 0700

# Collecting HIV treatments from chemists The choice is yours

From 1 July 2015, people living with HIV (PLHIV) will be able to access HIV medications from chemists

The Australian Government is expanding options for dispensing HIV medications.

## What do I need to do?

If you want to collect your HIV medications from a hospital pharmacy, you can continue with that arrangement.

## Will it cost more?

From 1 October 2015, HIV medications are free in NSW when dispensed through either your local chemist or a hospital pharmacy.

**PositiveLifeNSW**  
the voice of people with HIV since 1988

# What are my choices after 1 July 2015?

There will be three ways of collecting HIV medications:

## 1) FROM HOSPITAL PHARMACIES

## 2) FROM LOCAL CHEMISTS

It will be an opt-in system for chemists. You will need to check with your chemist if they are willing to supply HIV medications. Talk to the chemist about immediate supply or if you'll need to leave the prescription and collect the HIV medications at a later time. In inner city areas of Sydney, it is likely that you will be able to get HIV medications dispensed on the spot. If you live in an outer suburban area, regional or rural area, you might need to drop in your prescription one day and return to the chemist a few days later to collect your medication.

In some circumstances, chemists provide extended hours for dispensing, for example: 8am to 8pm and for some 7 days a week; and some may have a free delivery service. If you decide to use the free delivery service, be assured that HIV medications are packaged with no obvious branding.

## 3) FROM ONLINE PHARMACIES

This is a useful way to have medications posted to your home address.

# Will my privacy be maintained by the chemist?

Your privacy will be maintained in the same way by a hospital pharmacy or by a chemist.

If you have concerns about privacy, talk to the chemist and let them know your concerns. You can always ask a chemist to speak in private.

In the unlikely event that your privacy is breached or compromised by staff employed by a chemist, you will need to raise the matter with the pharmacist. If the complaint and/or concerns are not resolved to your satisfaction, you can lodge a complaint with one of the following agencies:

### **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>

# Is there any way that I can have my HIV medication delivered?

Yes. You can receive your HIV medications by a postal arrangement.

There are a number of options to purchase HIV drugs from online pharmacies. Search the web for a range of online pharmacy services.

## **TIPS**

Scripts will need to be dated 1 July 2015 or thereafter to be honoured by your local chemist

Scripts will need to be dated after 1 October 2015 and be accompanied by a patient consent form to be free

Plan ahead to renew your scripts and allow time for the chemist to order stock  
Develop a relationship with a pharmacist  
Call the pharmacist to discuss your needs  
If it's easier to have postal deliveries, there are online options you can access