

- Have your regular tests including blood tests and ultrasounds as ordered by your doctor or nurse.
- Let your doctor know before taking herbal or traditional medicines or any other medicines. They may affect your hepatitis B medication.

## Tips for taking the medication:

- Set an alarm on your phone to remind you to take your medication at the same time every day.
- Talk to your pharmacist about a Webster-pak (a pre-arranged medication container) if you take other medications at different times.
- Ask your pharmacist to keep your prescription and remind you when it is due for refill (get more).
- Doctors, nurses, or pharmacists can access free interpreter services if you need help with language.
- Do not have a Medicare Card? – You can access medicines online from overseas.



Your Doctor/Nurses Name:	
Your Clinic Name:	
Clinic Phone Number:	

## Contact Us

For more information you can contact Love Health – Hepatitis, HIV/AIDS and Sexual Health Program at the Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland (ECCQ)

Phone: **3844 9166**

Email: [health@eccq.com.au](mailto:health@eccq.com.au)

Website: [www.eccq.com.au/bbv](http://www.eccq.com.au/bbv)



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The information in this factsheet is general in nature. Your health practitioner will advise specific instructions relevant to your individual health requirements. Published April 2024

# How to Take Hepatitis B Medication in Australia



## Entecavir:

- Sometimes called by its current brand names Apotex or Mylan.
- Must have a valid doctor or nurse practitioner prescription to buy at a pharmacy.
- Take one tablet once a day with water – your doctor will let you know if you need a different dose.
- You need to take this medication on an empty stomach – do not eat for 2 hours before and 2 hours after taking the medication.
- Some people find it easier to take the tablet first thing in the morning, and then eat breakfast 2 hours later; or take it before going to bed at night (do not eat for 2 hours before).
- Available at a lower cost with a Medicare Card or Concession Card such as Health Care Card.
- Available on a private prescription (full price) if you do not have a Medicare Card. Please discuss costs with your doctor or pharmacist.

## Tenofovir Disoproxil Fumarate (TDF):

- Sometimes called by its current brand name – Viread.
- Must have a valid doctor or nurse practitioner prescription to buy at a pharmacy.
- One tablet once a day with water – your doctor will let you know if you need a different dose.
- Can be taken with food.
- Safe to use in pregnancy.
- Available at a lower cost with a Medicare Card or Concession Card such as Health Care Card.
- Available on a private prescription (full price) if you do not have a Medicare Card. Please discuss costs with your doctor or pharmacist.

## Tenofovir Alafenamide (TAF):

- Also called by its current brand name – Vemlidy.
- Must have a valid doctor prescription.
- One tablet once a day with water – your doctor will let you know if you need a different dose.
- Can be taken with food.
- Not currently available at a lower cost in Australia even if you have a Medicare Card or Concession Card such as Health Care Card, therefore, you will pay full price. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist about the cost – may also be available online for purchase from overseas.



## Important things to remember:

- These medications are generally for life-long term use, like for other chronic health conditions.
- Take one tablet every day at the same time with water.
- Missed a tablet? Take the missed tablet as soon as possible when you remember if it is the same day. Then, take your normal tablet the next day.
- Do not take 2 doses at one time or on the same day.
- Do not share your medication with other people, such as your family members or friends.
- These medications have very few side effects. Some people may experience mild headaches, nausea, tiredness etc., when starting the medication. If you have symptoms that worry you, do not stop taking the medications without first talking to your doctor or nurse.
- Make sure you do not run out of medications; stopping and starting medications can cause serious problems for your liver and health. If you do run out of medications contact your doctor or nurse immediately.
- Do not stop medications whilst fasting e.g., during Ramadan or if taking other medications such as antibiotics etc. If you are unsure, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.
- Discuss with your doctor before you travel as you will need sufficient medications whilst away. You may need a letter from your doctor to carry the medications into another country.