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Antiretroviral options abound for both those who are HIV treatment naive and those who are experienced. This quick-reference chart compares available medication options, including dosing and dietary restrictions. To learn more about these medications, including possible side effects and drug interactions, log on to AIDSmeds.com.



Nucleoside/Nucleotide Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitors (NRTIs)			
Combivir (zidovudine + lamivudine)		One Combivir tablet twice a day. Contains two NRTIs in one tablet.	Take with or without food.
Emtriva (emtricitabine)		One 200 mg Emtriva capsule once a day	Take with or without food.
Epivir (lamivudine)		One 300 mg Epivir tablet once a day, or one 150 mg Epivir tablet twice a day	Take with or without food. Also approved for the treatment of hepatitis B virus (HBV), but at a lower dose. People living with both viruses should use HIV dose.
Epzicom* (abacavir + lamivudine) *Sold as Kivexa in some countries		One Epzicom tablet once a day. Contains two NRTIs in one tablet.	Take with or without food. Get tested for an inherited gene (HLA-B*5701) before starting this medication to reduce the risk of a severe allergic reaction to abacavir.
Retrovir (zidovudine)		One 300 mg Retrovir tablet twice a day	Take with or without food.
Trizivir (abacavir + zidovudine + lamivudine)		One Trizivir tablet twice a day. Contains three NRTIs in one tablet.	Take with or without food. Get tested for an inherited gene (HLA-B*5701) before starting this medication to reduce the risk of a severe allergic reaction to abacavir.
Truvada (tenofovir + emtricitabine)		One Truvada tablet once a day. Contains two NRTIs in one tablet.	Take with or without food.
Videx EC* (didanosine) *Also available generically in the U.S.		One 400 mg Videx EC capsule once a day (or one 250 mg capsule once a day for those who weigh less than 132 lbs.)	Take on an empty stomach. Best to avoid alcohol with this drug.
Viread (tenofovir)		One 300 mg Viread tablet once a day	Also approved for the treatment of hepatitis B virus (HBV). Take with or without food.
Zerit (stavudine)		One 40 mg Zerit capsule twice a day (or one 30 mg Zerit capsule twice a day for those who weigh less than 132 lbs.)	Take with or without food.
Ziagen (abacavir)		Two 300 mg Ziagen tablets once a day, or one 300 mg Ziagen tablet twice a day	Take with or without food. Get tested for an inherited gene (HLA-B*5701) before starting this medication to reduce the risk of a severe allergic reaction to abacavir.
Protease Inhibitors (PIs)			
Aptivus (tipranavir)		Two 250 mg Aptivus capsules plus two 100 mg Norvir tablets twice a day	Take with food. Approved only for treatment-experienced patients. Aptivus should not be taken with other PIs, with the exception of Norvir.
Crixivan (indinavir)		Two 400 mg Crixivan capsules three times a day, or two 400 mg Crixivan capsules plus one or two 100 mg Norvir tablets twice a day (preferred dosing)	Take on an empty stomach or with a light, low-fat snack if used without Norvir. If Norvir is used, take with or without food. Drink six glasses of water a day to help prevent kidney stones.
Invirase (saquinavir)		Two 500 mg Invirase tablets plus one 100 mg Norvir tablet twice a day	Invirase must be used with Norvir and should be taken with food.
Kaletra* (lopinavir + ritonavir) *Sold as Aluvia in some countries		Two tablets twice a day or four tablets once a day, depending on extent of HIV drug resistance. Contains two PIs in one tablet.	Take with or without food.
Lexiva* (fosamprenavir) *Sold as Telzir in some countries		Two 700 mg Lexiva tablets twice a day, or two 700 mg Lexiva tablets plus one Norvir tablet once a day, or one 700 mg Lexiva tablet plus one Norvir tablet twice a day (recommended dose for those who have used other PIs in the past)	Take with or without food. People who have used other PIs in the past should only use twice-daily Norvir-boosted Lexiva.
Norvir (ritonavir)		Six 100 mg Norvir tablets twice a day	The full dose of Norvir is rarely used. It is most often used at much lower doses to "boost" the levels of other PIs in the blood. Take with food

Prezista (darunavir)		One 800 mg Prezista tablet (or two 400 mg Prezista tablets) plus one 100 mg Norvir tablet once a day, or one 600 mg Prezista tablet plus one 100 mg Norvir tablet twice a day; depending on extent of HIV drug resistance	Prezista must be used with Norvir and should be taken with food.
Reyataz (atazanavir)		Two 200 mg Reyataz capsules once a day, or one 300 mg Reyataz capsule plus one 100 mg Norvir tablet once a day	Take with food.
Viracept (nelfinavir)		Two 625 mg Viracept tablets twice a day, or five 250 mg Viracept tablets twice a day, or three 250 mg Viracept tablets three times a day	Take with food. If you have trouble swallowing the pills, you can dissolve a powder formulation in water for easy drinking.



Non-Nucleoside Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitors (NNRTIs)

Edurant (rilpivirine)		One 25 mg Edurant tablet once a day.	Should be taken with a meal containing fat (e.g., breakfast or dinner).
Intelence (etravirine)		One 200 mg Intelence tablet twice a day	Take with food.
Rescriptor (delavirdine)		Two 200 mg Rescriptor tablets three times a day	Take with or without food.
Sustiva* (efavirenz) *Sold as Stocrin in some countries		One 600 mg Sustiva tablet once a day	Take on an empty stomach and at bedtime to minimize dizziness, drowsiness and impaired concentration
Viramune XR (nevirapine)		One 200 mg Viramune tablet once a day for the first 14 days, then one 400 mg Viramune XR tablet once a day	Take with or without food.




Integrase Inhibitors

Isentress (raltegravir)		One 400 mg Isentress tablet twice a day	Take with or without food.
Tivicay (dolutegravir)		One 50mg tablet, once a day for those starting antiretroviral therapy for the first time, or for those who have not used an integrase inhibitor in the past. For treatment-experienced individuals who have HIV that is resistant to the first-generation integrase inhibitors, the approved dose is one 50mg tablet twice a day. Tivicay must also be taken twice a day by people who are using certain medications.	Take with or without food. Tivicay should be taken two hours before or six hours after taking antacid or laxatives containing aluminum, magnesium or calcium; sucralfate (Carafate); oral iron supplement calcium supplements; or buffered medications.

Fusion and Entry Inhibitors

Fuzeon (enfuvirtide)		One 90 mg Fuzeon injection twice a day	Fuzeon comes as a white powder that must be carefully mixed with sterile water in a vial each day before being injected—a process called “reconstitution.”
Selzentry* (maraviroc) *Sold as Celsentri in some countries		One 150 mg Selzentry tablet, one 300 mg Selzentry tablet, or two 300 mg Selzentry tablets twice a day (because Selzentry interacts with many HIV drugs, the dose will depend on other medications being used)	Take with or without food. Selzentry is only effective against CCR5-tropic HIV (virus that uses the CC receptor on CD4 cells). A tropism assay, such as Monogram Bioscience's Trofile, will determine whether treatment with Selzentry will be useful.

Single Tablet Regimens

Atripla (efavirenz + tenofovir + emtricitabine)		One Atripla tablet once a day. Contains two NRTIs and one NNRTI in one tablet.	Can be used with or without other HIV medications. Take on an empty stomach and at bedtime to minimize dizziness, drowsiness and impaired concentration (possible side effects of efavirenz).
Complera (rilpivirine + tenofovir + emtricitabine)		One Complera tablet once a day. Contains two NRTIs and one NNRTI in one tablet.	Should be taken with a meal containing fat (e.g., breakfast or dinner).
Stribild (elvitegravir + cobicistat + tenofovir + emtricitabine)		One Stribild tablet once a day. Contains two NRTIs, one integrase inhibitor and one pharmacokinetic enhancer in one tablet.	Should be taken with food (e.g., breakfast or dinner).