



愛滋感染者權益促進會

PERSONS WITH HIV/AIDS RIGHTS ADVOCACY ASSOCIATION OF TAIWAN

PRAA Handbook for Foreign Nationals Living with HIV in Taiwan



A tool to assist foreign
nationals living with HIV

PRAA Handbook for Foreign Nationals Living with HIV in Taiwan



There are subsidies conditionally available for foreign nationals living with HIV through programs such as the CDC or National Health Insurance, with eligibility determined by factors such as local diagnosis and the duration (two years) after starting HIV treatment in Taiwan. This handbook offers essential information on how foreign nationals living with HIV can continue their HIV treatment in Taiwan. It provides an overview of available resources, eligibility criteria, and application procedures to ensure access to the care they need.

In addition to the treatment information, this handbook also covers other relevant topics, including HIV local diagnosis and reporting procedures, the National Health Insurance Medical Information Cloud Query System (健保醫療資訊雲端查詢系統) policy, and HIV disclosure policy for accessing medical services.





Service Map

Foreign nationals living with HIV
Treatment and Care Access

p.12-14
Foreign nationals living with HIV

Officially Diagnosed,
Reported, and Treated for HIV in Taiwan
Under 2 years

Officially Diagnosed, Reported, and
Treated for HIV in Taiwan
2+ years

Subsidy
Eligibility Criteria

p.5-7
Not Eligible for Subsidies -
Treatment at Personal Expense

p.8
Enrolled in National Health
Insurance

p.9-11
NOT Enrolled in
National Health Insurance

p.3

- Foreign spouses
- Overstaying descendants of nationalist military personnel from Thailand and Myanmar, and Tibetans overstaying in Taiwan
- Foreigners who become infected during medical procedures in Taiwan
- Nationals without household registration who have legally resided in the Taiwan Area
- Others

p.4

Support Program for Foreign HIV Patients Receiving Medication within 2 years in Taiwan: Eligibility requirement

- Have no income
- Be currently studying in Taiwan
- Have a monthly salary below NT\$48,000

Foreign nationals in Taiwan officially diagnosed with HIV, reported to authorities, and receiving treatment for under two years: Please refer to the Blue, Orange, or Green blocks in the Service Map to determine your eligibility and find detailed instructions in the corresponding section.

The section on “Other Topics” may be helpful for all foreign nationals living with HIV.

Foreign nationals living with HIV who have been officially diagnosed with HIV in Taiwan, reported to the authorities by medical personnel, and started treatment locally within the past two years are eligible for treatment subsidies if they meet one of the following criteria:

- Foreign spouses
- Overstaying descendants of nationalist military personnel from Thailand and Myanmar, and Tibetans overstaying in Taiwan
- Foreigners who become infected during medical procedures in Taiwan
- Nationals without household registration who have legally resided in the Taiwan Area with approval from the authorities
- Others

Reference: Regulations Governing Subsidies for Treatment Expenses of HIV-Infected Persons (hereafter, HIV Treatment Regulations)



Notes :

- 1 The aforementioned criteria for “Foreign spouses” and “Foreigners who become infected during medical procedures in Taiwan” also apply to citizens of China, Hong Kong, and Macau.
- 2 The criterion “Nationals without household registration who have legally resided in the Taiwan Area with approval from the authorities” refers to those approved before 6 February 2015, the effective date of the amended HIV Infection Control and Patient Rights Protection Act.
- 3 The criterion “Others” refers to those deemed necessary to receive treatment, periodic examinations, and testing by the central competent authority.
- 4 All recipients of subsidies under HIV Treatment Regulations must be legally residing in Taiwan.
- 5 All recipients of subsidies under HIV Treatment Regulations will be issued a temporary National Medical Care Service Card.
- 6 The subsidies provided under HIV Treatment Regulations include HIV outpatient and inpatient consultation fees and other related medical expenses, medication costs, and regular CD4 and HIV viral load testing. See HIV Treatment Regulations Article 6 for details.

Foreign nationals living with HIV who have been officially diagnosed with HIV in Taiwan, reported to the authorities by medical personnel, and started treatment locally within the past two years are eligible for treatment support if they meet one of the following criteria:

- Have no income
- Be currently studying in Taiwan
- Have a monthly salary below NT\$48,000

Reference: Support Program for Foreign HIV Patients Receiving Medication within 2 years in Taiwan (hereafter, Support Program)



Notes :

- 1 Applicants must: 1) have been diagnosed HIV positive; 2) have been reported to the authorities by medical personnel; and 3) possess relevant documentation such as an Alien Resident Certificate (ARC) or National Health Insurance (NHI) card. Additionally, they must not be eligible for subsidies under the Regulations Governing Subsidies for Treatment Expenses of HIV-Infected Persons.
- 2 The Support Program terminates if the donated medications are exhausted.
- 3 Foreign nationals working in Taiwan must provide proof of income when applying for the Support Program.
- 4 Foreign students studying in Taiwan must provide a student ID when applying for the Support Program.
- 5 The Support Program includes HIV treatment medication (Biktarvy®), regular testing for HIV viral load, and CD4 lymphocyte count. However, applicants are responsible for expenses such as registration fees, consultation fees, other medical-related costs like additional tests, pharmacy service fees, and any co-payments. These expenses will either be the applicant's responsibility or be charged according to relevant National Health Insurance regulations in Taiwan.
- 6 Participants in the Support Program are required to sign a consent form. The official version is available in Mandarin, English, Indonesian, Thai, and Vietnamese.

Not Eligible for Subsidies - Treatment at Personal Expense

Foreign nationals living with HIV are responsible for their own HIV treatment expenses during their first two years in Taiwan if they are ineligible for the Support Program for Foreign HIV Patients Receiving Medication within 2 years in Taiwan, and do not belong to one of the following groups: 1) Foreign spouses; 2) Overstaying descendants of nationalist military personnel from Thailand and Myanmar, and Tibetans overstaying in Taiwan; 3) Foreigners who become infected during medical procedures in Taiwan.

Here are four suggestions to help you continue your HIV treatment in Taiwan:

Suggestion 1



You can purchase HIV medication at your own expense from a designated HIV treatment facility in Taiwan. The cost ranges from NT\$12,000 to NT\$18,000 per month (including hospital services not covered by National Health Insurance), depending on the type of medication

Suggestion 2



Have your family or friends send medication to Taiwan from your home country.

⚠️ **Reminder:** The medication may be inspected by customs. It is strongly recommended to apply for a "Drug Application for Personal Use" from Taiwan's Food and Drug Administration (TFDA) in advance. For related information, please see:

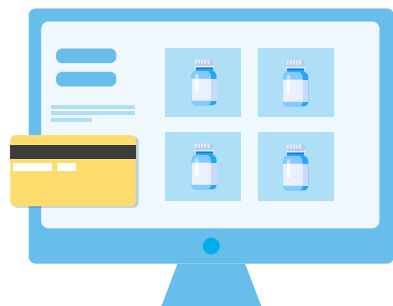
Mandarin
中文

English
英文

Indonesian
印尼文

Vietnamese
越南文

Suggestion 3



Purchase medication from an online pharmacy.

⚠️ **Reminder:** The medication may be inspected by customs. It is strongly recommended to apply for a "Drug Application for Personal Use" from Taiwan's Food and Drug Administration (TFDA) in advance. For related information, please see:

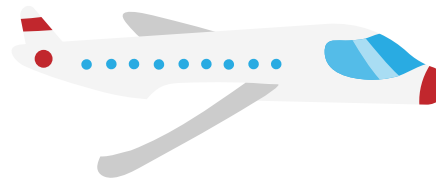
Mandarin
中文

English
英文

Indonesian
印尼文

Vietnamese
越南文

Suggestion 4



You can regularly return to your home country for medical consultations and bring medication back to Taiwan.

⚠️ **Reminder:** Please carry your personal medical certificate for customs inspection. Additionally, according to Taiwan's Food and Drug Administration (TFDA) regulations, you can carry a maximum of a 6-month supply or 12 containers of medication each time.

Note 1

If you choose suggestions 2, 3, or 4 to maintain your treatment but plan to use National Health Insurance (NHI) to cover HIV medical expenses after two years from the date of being reported with HIV in Taiwan and starting medication, please prepare in advance for the following:

You must:

1. Have NHI status after two years from the date of being reported with HIV in Taiwan and starting medication.
2. Have a record of purchasing HIV medication (at least one pill) at any designated HIV treatment facility in Taiwan.
3. Two years after the aforementioned medication purchase, you can enjoy the same HIV medical coverage from NHI as Taiwanese citizens.

Note 2

Within the first two years after being reported with HIV in Taiwan and starting medication, the NHI will not cover regular CD4 and HIV viral load tests, or hospitalization due to HIV. Please read the "Explanation section for Note 2" for suggestions.



Explanation section for Note 2

How to manage your regular CD4 and HIV viral load tests within the first two years after being diagnosed and reported with HIV in Taiwan?

Suggestion 1: You can pay for the tests yourself at a designated HIV treatment facility or clinic.

⚠️ Reminder 1: A CD4 test costs approximately NT\$1,000 to NT\$2,000, and an HIV viral load test costs approximately NT\$4,000 to NT\$9,000. Prices are for reference only and may vary depending on the medical facility.

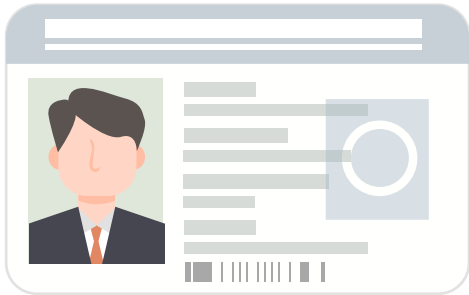
⚠️ Reminder 2: According to Taiwan's Communicable Disease Control Act, if a medical facility performs a non-anonymous (identified) HIV confirmation test (including viral load test, immunochromatography ICT) and the result is positive, the facility must report it to the health authorities within 24 hours. Personal privacy is protected throughout this process.

Suggestion 2: Some private testing laboratories offer these tests (CD4, HIV viral load); you can search for them online. Prices vary, and some may offer anonymous testing.

⚠️ Reminder: For urgent needs, please contact non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Two years after being officially diagnosed with HIV, reported to authorities, and starting treatment in Taiwan, foreign nationals living with HIV with National Health Insurance (NHI) status are eligible to access NHI-cover HIV medical care. To access these services:

1



They must have legal residency and NHI status in Taiwan.

2



They can receive the same HIV subsidy items provided by NHI (including HIV medication and regular CD4 and HIV viral load tests) as Taiwanese citizens.

3



They can seek treatment and care at any designated HIV treatment facility.



Two years after being officially diagnosed with HIV, reported to authorities, and starting treatment in Taiwan, foreign nationals living with HIV without National Health Insurance (NHI) status are NOT eligible to access NHI-cover HIV medical care.

Here are four suggestions to help those without NHI status to continue their HIV treatment in Taiwan:

Suggestion 1



You can purchase HIV medication at your own expense from a designated HIV treatment facility in Taiwan. The cost ranges from NT\$12,000 to NT\$18,000 per month (including hospital services not covered by National Health Insurance), depending on the type of medication.

Suggestion 2



Have your family or friends send medication to Taiwan from your home country.

⚠️ Reminder: The medication may be inspected by customs. It is strongly recommended to apply for a "Drug Application for Personal Use" from Taiwan's Food and Drug Administration (TFDA) in advance. For related information, please see:

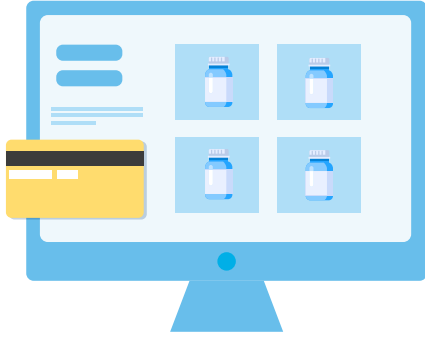
[Mandarin](#)
中文

[English](#)
英文

[Indonesian](#)
印尼文

[Vietnamese](#)
越南文

Suggestion 3



Purchase medication from an online pharmacy.

⚠️ **Reminder:** The medication may be inspected by customs. It is strongly recommended to apply for a "Drug Application for Personal Use" from Taiwan's Food and Drug Administration (TFDA) in advance. For related information, please see:

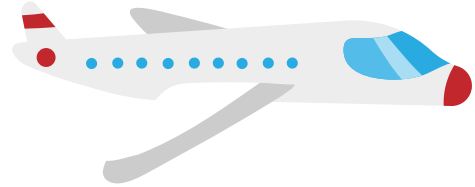
Mandarin
中文

English
英文

Indonesian
印尼文

Vietnamese
越南文

Suggestion 4



You can regularly return to your home country for medical consultations and bring medication back to Taiwan.

⚠️ **Reminder:** Please carry your personal medical certificate for customs inspection. Additionally, according to Taiwan's Food and Drug Administration (TFDA) regulations, you can carry a maximum of a 6-month supply or 12 containers of medication each time.

How to manage your regular CD4 and HIV viral load tests if you are foreign nationals living with HIV without National Health Insurance (NHI) status (particularly two years after being officially diagnosed with HIV, reported to authorities, and starting treatment in Taiwan)? Please read the "Explanation section" for suggestions.

Explanation section



How to manage your regular CD4 and HIV viral load tests if you are foreign nationals living with HIV without National Health Insurance (NHI) status (particularly two years after being officially diagnosed with HIV, reported to authorities, and starting treatment in Taiwan)? Please read the "Explanation section" for suggestions.

You can pay for the tests yourself at a designated HIV treatment facility or clinic.

⚠️ **Reminder 1:** A CD4 test costs approximately NT\$1,000 to NT\$2,000, and an HIV viral load test costs approximately NT\$4,000 to NT\$9,000. Prices are for reference only and may vary depending on the medical facility.

Suggestion 2: Some private testing laboratories offer these tests (CD4, HIV viral load); you can search for them online. Prices vary, and some may offer anonymous testing.

⚠️ **Reminder:** For urgent needs, please contact non-governmental organizations (NGOs).



What are the implications of "reporting" to the Centers for Disease Control (Taiwan CDC) for you?



Q : Will your company or school know that you are living with HIV?

A : No.

Q : Will public health authorities go to your place of residence, work, or school?

A1 : No.

A2 : If the public health authority in your place of residence needs to contact you, they will call you directly. Therefore, it is recommended that you leave your contact information when you are reported for an HIV diagnosis. This ensures that you can be reached.

A3 : Public health personnel will generally discuss the following matters with you:

They will confirm whether you have already sought medical treatment or assist you in finding a suitable treatment facility.

You will be informed of Taiwan's HIV regulations, and they will assess your ability to continue receiving treatment or provide referrals to support organizations.

For epidemic prevention purposes, they will ask you questions about the source of your HIV acquisition. These questions will cover potential contacts, including possible times, places, and individuals with whom you have had sexual contact.

Public health personnel are required to keep your condition and privacy confidential. It is recommended that you discuss medical treatment, contact tracing, and any questions about Taiwan's HIV regulations directly with them. They will also inform you of any relevant government subsidies and epidemic prevention policies.

Taiwan's National Health Insurance (NHI) contracted medical institutions upload clients' medical records to the National Health Insurance Medical Information Cloud Query System (健保醫療資訊雲端查詢系統). The purpose is to reduce health risks and medical waste caused by duplicate prescriptions or drug interactions, but medical institutions may also learn the client's HIV status through medication records.

According to the law, medical personnel who know the client's medical record (including HIV) must keep it confidential.

Reference: Article 14 of the "HIV Infection Control and Patient Rights Protection Act": Competent authorities, medical institutions, medical personnel and other persons who are in possession of information such as names and medical records of the infected through their business, except by the regulations of laws or for the needs of transmission prevention and medical care, shall not release such information.



Taiwanese law requires people living with HIV to inform medical personnel of their HIV status when seeking medical care. However, the preceding provision does not apply if people living with HIV are in an environment where their privacy is not protected.

Furthermore, medical personnel who are aware of a client's HIV status cannot refuse to provide medical services or give differential treatment. If you encounter such a situation, please inform the Department of Health/Health Bureau or call 1922 (toll-free communicable disease consultation hotline of the Ministry of Health and Welfare's Centers for Disease Control).



Reference: Article 12, Paragraph 1 of the "HIV Infection Control and Patient Rights Protection Act": The infected have the obligations to provide information regarding the sources of infection or contacts; when under medical care, they shall inform the medical personnel that they have been infected with HIV. The preceding provision does not apply to emergency situations or when the infected is in an environment where his/her privacy is not protected.

Reference: Article 12, Paragraph 3 of the "HIV Infection Control and Patient Rights Protection Act": After the infected provide with the fact of their infection, medical institutions and medical personnel shall not refuse to provide medical services.





Producer : Persons with HIV/AIDS Rights Advocacy Association of Taiwan (PRAA)

製作 : 愛滋感染者權益促進會

Co-producer : Taiwan AIDS Nurse Association (TANA)

協力 : 台灣愛滋病護理學會

Advisors : Peing Chuang, Stephane Wen-Wei Ku (in alphabetical order)

顧問 : 莊萃、顧文瑋 (依姓氏筆畫)

Supervisor : Taiwan Centers for Disease Control (Taiwan CDC)

指導 : 衛生福利部疾病管制署

First published in February 2025

出版 : 2025年2月