

Descovy®

(emtricitabine & tenofovir alafenamide)

This leaflet is designed to give you a general idea of the most important things you need to know about your new medicine. It is not supposed to replace the manufacturer's leaflet that comes with the medicine but is intended to be read alongside it. After reading this leaflet if you have any questions, please ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.

Clinic contact details:

What is Descovy?

Descovy is a blue rectangular-shaped tablet with 'GSI' on one side and '225' on the other.

Please note that there are two different strengths of Descovy tablets, one containing 10mg of tenofovir alafenamide (grey coloured tablet) and the other containing 25mg of tenofovir alafenamide (blue coloured tablet). You will be prescribed the appropriate strength of Descovy tablet depending on the other drugs in your combination. It is important to familiarise yourself with the preparation you have been prescribed on first initiating therapy.

This medicine is used in combination with other medicines for the treatment of HIV. Please speak to your clinic team if you would like more information about how these drugs work.



How should I take Descovy?

- The recommended dose is: ONE tablet ONCE a day.
- If you vomit within 1 hour, take another dose. If you continue to vomit, please contact your clinic.
- Please do not crush, if you have trouble swallowing this tablet please contact your clinic team.
- Please ensure you bring a supply of your HIV medicines if you are being admitted to hospital to ensure you are prescribed the correct medication and that you do not miss any doses.

What if I miss a dose?

HIV medicines work best if there is a constant amount of the medicine in your body. If you are worried about forgetting to take your medicines, speak to your clinic team.

Occasionally you may forget a dose. If this happens, please follow the guidance below and speak with your clinic as soon as possible for advice.

- If you notice within 18 hours of the time you usually take Descovy, you should take the tablet as soon as possible. Then take the next dose as usual.
- If you notice more than 18 hours after your missed dose, wait until your next dose is due.
- Never take a double dose to make up for the missed one.



What are the common side effects?

If you experience any side effects, and either they are troubling you or you develop any new symptoms after you start Descovy, do not stop taking your medication, instead please contact your clinic team so they can discuss other treatment options with you and/or advise you how to stop safely.

Some examples of the most common side effects are listed below (for a full list of side effects please check the manufacturer information leaflet):

-  'Head' side effects: Headache, dizziness, tiredness and abnormal dreams.
-  'Stomach' side effects: Feeling sick (nausea), vomiting, diarrhoea, stomach pain and flatulence.
-  Other side effects including rash, fatigue, and low red blood cell count (anaemia)

Can I take HIV medication if I am pregnant or breastfeeding?

If you become pregnant or are planning to start a family, do not stop taking your medication. Speak to your clinic so that your care can be managed appropriately. It is important you are on effective treatment to reduce the risk to your unborn child.

What medicines should I avoid with Descovy?

It is important that you tell anyone prescribing you medication about any medicines you are taking. This includes prescribed medicines, recreational or party drugs, and/or supplements you buy over the counter. Always tell your clinic team if you are taking (note this is not an exhaustive list of medicines):

Medicine	Why this is important
St John's Wort (a herbal remedy used to treat depression) Anti-TB drugs: Rifampicin & rifabutin Anti-seizure medicines e.g. carbamazepine, phenytoin (carbamazepine is also sometimes used to treat pain).	These medicines reduce levels of Descovy in the body, stopping it from working. Please ensure your doctor is aware you are on Descovy before they prescribe these medicines.