

## FAQs: Long-acting Injectables for Treatment

### What is a long-acting injectable treatment option?

CABENUVA® is a 2-drug long-acting, complete HIV regimen consisting of cabotegravir, an HIV-1 INSTI, and rilpivirine, an HIV-1 NNRTI. This combination long-acting agent is given once every other month for TREATMENT instead of daily HIV pills.

If recommended by your prescriber, this regimen can also be given every month.

The medications are slowly released over time to keep the same level in your body between appointments.

### Is this medication the same as long-acting PrEP?

No. Long-acting prep contains cabotegravir only. This long-acting treatment contains two medications: cabotegravir and rilpivirine.

### Can I use this for my HIV treatment?

If you are currently undetectable, or the lab tests detect HIV in the blood to be lower than 50 copies/ml, you may be eligible to begin treatment with the long-acting agent.

### Who cannot use this medication for treatment?

It is not recommended that you take the long-acting cabotegravir and rilpivirine injection if:

- You have had an allergic reaction to cabotegravir or rilpivirine; or
- Take the following medications:
  - carbamazepine; oxcarbazepine; phenobarbital; phenytoin; rifabutin; rifampin; rifapentine; dexamethasone (more than a single-dose treatment); St John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*).

### How is the Long-acting Cabotegravir and Rilpivirine injection scheduled?

The long-acting cabotegravir and rilpivirine injection is given every other month or monthly by a healthcare provider as 2 injections after you take about a month of once-daily starter pills. Your every other month regimen begins after 2 consecutive months of injections.

It's important to attend all appointments.

You and your doctor will choose an ongoing date, or Target Treatment Appointment Date, that works best to get your injections from a healthcare professional.

If you can't make your target appointment date, be sure to contact your doctor right away.

## What if I can't make my injection appointment window?

If you can't make your Target Appointment Date because you'll be out of town, make sure to contact your doctor immediately to set up a new appointment and discuss your options.

You'll have a Flexible Treatment Appointment Window from 7 days before to 7 days after your Target Treatment Date.

If you miss a dose or stop treatment, contact your doctor immediately to ensure you stay undetectable.

To maintain your treatment schedule, your doctor may instruct you to visit an Alternate Site for Administration (ASA). Use the link below to determine if there is an alternative site near you.

[www.viivconnect.com/injection-site-finder](http://www.viivconnect.com/injection-site-finder)

## How much does it cost?

The amount you pay for Long-acting Treatment will depend on your health insurance and the specifics of your insurance plan.

If you don't have health insurance, there are opportunities through Medicaid, ViiV (who makes the Long-acting Treatment), and other agencies to get you the medication.

The ViiV Connect website for patients is available to determine your insurance coverage and if you're eligible for programs that may help lower your out-of-pocket costs.

[www.viivconnect.com/for-patients](http://www.viivconnect.com/for-patients)

## What are the side effects of this medication?

The long-acting cabotegravir and rilpivirine for injection has been shown to cause the following side effects. Please refer to the product safety information for more information.

### Side effects:

**This list is not comprehensive. Call your provider for medical advice or guidance.**

- Most common reactions:
  - pain, tenderness, hardened mass or lump, swelling, redness, itching, bruising, and warmth at the injection site
  - fever
  - tiredness
  - headache
  - muscle or bone pain
  - nausea
  - sleep problems
  - dizziness
  - rash

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- Allergic reactions:
  - RASH
    - **Call your healthcare provider right away** if you develop a rash with the long-acting cabotegravir and rilpivirine agent.
  - RASH with the additional symptoms:
    - fever; generally ill feeling; tiredness; muscle or joint aches; trouble breathing; blisters or sores in mouth; blisters; redness or swelling of the eyes; swelling of the mouth, face, lips, or tongue
    - **Get medical assistance immediately** and stop receiving the injection
  - POST-INJECTION REACTION
    - This occurs minutes after the rilpivirine injection.
    - Most symptoms resolve after the injection.
    - Symptoms may include: trouble breathing, narrowing of airways, stomach cramps, sweating, numbness of your mouth, pain (e.g., back and chest), feeling anxious, feeling warm, rash, feeling lightheaded or like you are going to faint, blood pressure changes
- Liver problems:
  - People with a history of hepatitis B or C virus or with specific liver function test changes may have an increased risk of developing new or worsening changes in certain liver tests while receiving this treatment.
  - People without a history of liver problems or other risk factors may also be at risk.
    - Clinical assessment
      - Blood tests to check your liver function.
    - **Call your healthcare provider right away** if you develop any of the following signs or symptoms of liver problems: your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice), dark or “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools (bowel movements), nausea or vomiting, loss of appetite; pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area; itching.
- Depression or mood changes:
  - **Call your healthcare provider or get emergency medical help immediately** if you have any of the following symptoms: feeling sad or hopeless, feeling anxious or restless, having thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or having tried to hurt yourself.

## Can I take Long-acting Agents if I want to get pregnant or breastfeed?

If you plan to get pregnant or want to get pregnant,

- Tell your doctor if you are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed.
- Do not breastfeed if you take the Long-acting treatment.
- It is unknown if long-acting cabotegravir and rilpivirine injection can pass to your baby in breast milk.

## I'm Ready To Try Long-acting Treatment. Can You Help Me?

Yes! Please go to [www.aahivm.org](http://www.aahivm.org) to find a clinician that can assist you.

AAHIVM offers [Referral Link](#) to help locate providers according to specialty, focus, insurance, location, practice information, and patient population.