



INFORMATION ON HIV FOR FOREIGNERS IN CHINA



艾滋病治疗与关怀综合管理中心
WHOCC-BDH



UNAIDS



As of December 2021, no policies or regulation prohibit the entry, stay, and residence of foreign people living with HIV in China.





China's Policies and regulations on the entry and residence of foreigners living with HIV

Since 2010, China has amended and abolished some policies and regulations that had restrictions affecting foreigners who live with HIV.

The Decision of the State Council on Revising People's Republic of China Border Health Quarantine Law Implementation Details (2010) [1] and the Decision of the State Council on Revising People's Republic of China Foreigner Entry and Exit Management Law Implementation Details (2010) [2] abolished entry restrictions for foreign people living with HIV. Since then, departmental rules and regulations conflicting with the two Decisions have been abolished automatically.


Specification of issuing health certificate for entry-exit personnel (SN/T 1238-2006) [3] and Provisions of Providing Health Reports by Foreigners Visiting China (No. 48 [87] of the GAQSIQ) [4], which imposed travel restrictions on people living with HIV, were also abolished in 2017 and 2018 respectively.

[1]《国务院关于修改中华人民共和国国境卫生检疫法实施细则》


[2]《国务院关于修改〈中华人民共和国外国人入境出境管理法实施细则〉》

[3]《入出境人员健康检查证明书签发规范》

[4]《关于来华外国人提供健康证明问题的若干规定》(87)卫疫检字第 48 号)



The policies and regulations in this document are translated to English from the official Chinese text. If any questions arise concerning the accuracy of the information presented, please refer to the official Chinese version.



Port HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Management Procedures (Order No.139 of the GAQSIQ)

《口岸艾滋病预防控制管理办法》(总局令第139号)



Port HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Management Procedures (Order No. 139 of GAQSIQ) was revised in 2021, deleting articles that require the mandatory declaration of HIV status and health check certificates to include HIV testing results. With these revisions came into effect on 1 February 2021, China no longer has any HIV-related restrictions on entry, stay and residence. The newly revised Procedures also put emphasis on protecting the privacy of foreigners living with HIV, prohibiting the customs and its staff from disclosing their information without consent.

Some articles in the Procedures do require foreigners living with HIV to cooperate with epidemiological investigations and relevant instructions upon entry, but no explicit HIV-related restrictions like mandatory testing and disclosure or decision-making based on HIV status have been found.

Port HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Management Procedures (Order No.139 of the GAQSIQ)

ARTICLE 7

No unit or individual shall discriminate against people living with HIV and their families. The legitimate rights and interests of people living with HIV and their families are protected by law.

ARTICLE 8

The customs shall carry out epidemiological investigations on people living with HIV that have been identified and provide HIV prevention and treatment counselling services.

ARTICLE 9

People living with HIV entering the country shall cooperate with the customs epidemiological investigations and the corresponding medical instruction upon entry.

ARTICLE 12

Persons from outside China applying to reside in China should undergo a physical examination at the customs. After undergoing this examination, they should take the valid health check certificate containing the testing results to the Public Security Bureau to carry out the residence registration procedures.

ARTICLE 19

When the customs conduct investigations for the purpose of grasping or controlling the HIV epidemic situation, the investigated units and individuals must provide true information and must not conceal or fabricate false information.

Without the consent of the individual or their guardian, the customs and its staff shall not disclose information relating to the people living with HIV.

Foreigners' residence, employment and schooling in China



When applying for permanent residence or a resident permit longer than a year, seeking employment, or planning to study for more than six months in China, all foreigners need to provide a health check certificate. These health checks may or may not include HIV testing, but the result should not affect decision-making. Details of relevant policies and regulations are as follows.

1 Working Rules on Visas and Residence Permits for Foreigners (No. 30 [2004] of the Ministry of Public Security) 《外国人签证居留许可工作规范》(公安部公境【2004】30号)

ARTICLE 24

A foreigner who has attained the age of 18 must provide a health certificate when applying for a residence permit valid for more than one year for the first time since his/her entry.

2 Regulations on the Management of Employment of Foreigners in China (No. 29 [1996] of the Ministry of Labor) 《外国人就业管理规定》(劳部发【1996】29号)

ARTICLE 8

Foreigners seeking employment in China shall enter China by holding an occupation visa (or in line with agreements on mutual exemption of visas if

such agreements have been reached) and can get employed only after obtaining an ‘Employment Certificate for Foreigners’ (hereinafter referred to as employment certificates) and residential documents for foreigners.

ARTICLE 11

To employ a foreigner, an employer must fill out an Application Form for Employment Permit for Foreigners (hereinafter referred to as “application form”) and submit it to the competent authority to which the employer belongs (hereinafter referred to as the “competent department”) at the same level as the administrative authority of labor together with the following valid documents:

(5) A Certificate of Verification for Health Examination Record for foreigners or overseas Chinese;

Administrative Rules on the Acceptance of Foreign Students by Colleges and Universities

(Order No.9 of the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Public of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Public Security)

3

《高等学校接受外国留学生管理规定》
(教育部、外交部、公安部9号令)

ARTICLE 45

Foreign students who arrive in China to study of more than 6 months shall go to the local Hygiene and Quarantine office for the confirmation of the Physical Examination Record for Foreigners within the required period. Those failing to provide the Physical Examination Record for foreigners shall have a physical check-up at the local Hygiene and Quarantine offices. Those who were confirmed to carry entry-forbidden diseases by Chinese laws shall leave China immediately.

Procedures for Approval and Management of Permanent Residence of Foreigners in China and Implementation Regulations (Order No.74 of the Ministry of Public Security and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

4

《外国人在中国永久居留审批管理办法》
(公安部、外交部第 74 号令)

ARTICLE 9

When applying, the applicant should accurately complete the “Application Form for Foreigners Applying for Permanent Residence in China”, and submit the following materials:

(2) Health certificate issued by an inspection department designated by the Chinese government or issued by a foreign health facility approved by a Chinese Embassy located overseas.



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IN CHINA

06 CHINA





China's services on HIV testing, prevention and treatment for foreigners

PART I HIV TESTING

HIV testing is the key to ensuring early diagnosis and treatment. In China, there are several ways to obtain HIV testing services:

- (1) Hospitals at county level and above can provide testing services (for a fee), and you can consult local hospitals whether they can provide services for foreigners;
- (2) Community-based organizations (CBOs) that carry out AIDS prevention in various regions can provide testing consultation, referral services, and mailing of rapid testing strips (which is free of charge in most cases). And you can request anonymity or seek for privacy support if it is necessary.
- (3) Self-test strips are also available at pharmacies or on the Internet such as Taobao and JD.com.

When the test result is positive or to be confirmed, you must go to the hospital for a confirmatory test. In China, only CDCs and some tertiary A hospitals have the qualifications to carry out confirmatory test. It should be noted that when entering the HIV confirmation stage, you need to provide your real name and passport information to the hospital. It is illegal to disclose one's HIV status without consent in China.

PART II

Services on Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP)



Pre-exposure prophylaxis, PrEP

PrEP is a biological intervention to prevent HIV by taking antiretroviral drugs before possible exposure. China had pilot programmes in a few hospitals in key provinces and is rolling out the services.

In China, all PrEP services are provided by hospitals. Before starting PrEP, some blood tests including HIV, kidney function, hepatitis virus, sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy testing are required. The cost is about 700CNY. After the doctor's evaluation, it is determined whether to take PrEP drugs. PrEP drugs need to be purchased from hospitals or pharmacies with a doctor's prescription.

In the process of taking PrEP drugs, it is also necessary to go to the hospital for follow-up inspections every 3 months, including monitoring HIV infection status, drug side effects, testing for sexually transmitted diseases, evaluation and consultation of medication compliance, and hepatitis testing etc.

Internationally, Emtricitabine and Tenofovir Disoproxil Fumarate tablets (300mg/200mg) are used for PrEP. Depending on the country where the drug is produced, the price ranges from 300–2000CNY. There are two hospitals in Beijing that can provide PrEP prescription services, and English is available:

BEIJING DITAN HOSPITAL

* PUBLIC HOSPITAL

NO.8, Jingshun East Street, Chaoyang District, Beijing

010-84322250

Monday to Friday 8:00-11:30 / 13:00-16:30

BEIJING YOUAN HOSPITAL

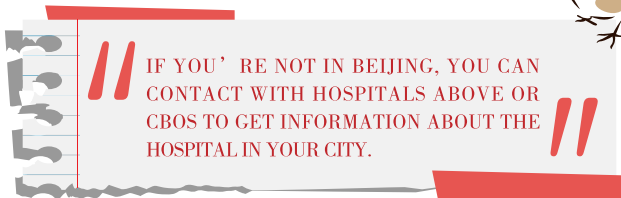
* PUBLIC HOSPITAL

NO.8, Xi Tou Tiao, Youanmen wai, Fengtai District, Beijing

010- 83997271

Monday to Friday 8:00-17:00

Saturday/Sunday, 8:00-11:30 / 13:00-16:30



* Designated hospital: In China, each region (district/county) has hospitals that specializes in treating people living with HIV, which is called designated hospital.



Post-exposure prophylaxis, PEP

PEP is a measure to reduce the risk of HIV infection by taking antiretroviral drugs as soon as possible after being exposed to HIV. Starting PEP within 72 hours after exposure to HIV can reduce the risk of HIV infection by more than 80%. The sooner the drug was taken after exposure, the higher the success rate of blocking. Taking drugs within 2 hours after exposure is the best. After HIV exposure occurs, you should go to the clinic providing PEP services for exposure risk assessment and relevant blood examination as soon as possible. The price is about 1000CNY. The doctor will provide corresponding recommendations based on the test results and exposure.

In China, all PEP services are provided by hospitals. The designated hospitals* can provide PEP services. PEP drugs also need to be purchased from hospitals or pharmacies with a doctor's prescription. Therefore, if there is a need for PEP, you should contact the local HIV designated hospitals or CBOs for consultation quickly.

According to international and Chinese guidelines, the best regimen for PEP is Tenofovir Disoproxil Fumarate (TDF) or Tenofovir Alafenamide Fumarate (TAF) + Emtricitabine (FTC) or Lamivudine(3TC) + Dolutegravir (DTG). The price of drugs varies from 1400 to 2900 yuan depending on the country of production. Currently, there are two public hospitals and one private clinic in Beijing that can provide PEP services and English is available.

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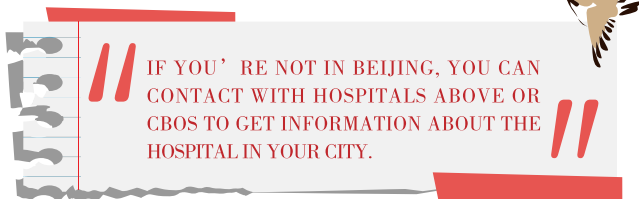
Raffles Medical

PRIVATE CLINIC

Wing1, Kunsha Building, No.16 Xinyuanli, Chaoyang District, Beijing,

010-646291112

Monday-Sunday, 24hours



* Designated hospital: In China, each region (district/county) has hospitals that specializes in treating people living with HIV, which is called designated hospital.

PART III

Access to antiretroviral treatment services

In China, designated hospitals at all levels of administrative regions can provide systematic and professional HIV related treatment services. In designated hospitals, doctors will formulate antiretroviral treatment regimens according to your physical condition, economic status, and living conditions. And it also provides systematic physical examinations to monitor the efficacy and adverse effects of the drugs. Therefore, you must go to a local designated hospital for consultation to initiate antiretroviral treatment.

You can get in touch with Beijing Ditan Hospital at 010-84322250 or CBOs to get referral help so that you can get treatment in the city where you live. China provides people living with HIV with free drugs in Chinese national free list, drugs in Chinese medical insurance list and self-paying drugs. Currently, self-paying drugs are applicable to foreign people living with HIV. You can consult your insurance company whether it can cover the drugs listed in Chinese medical insurance and physical examination costs.

The cost of basic examination at the initial start is about 5,000CNY. In addition, the doctor will increase or decrease the examination items according to your physical condition and needs, and the cost will also fluctuate. Blood test is required at 2, 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, and 24 weeks after the initiation of treatment to monitor the effect of drugs. After 6 months of stable treatment, blood tests can be performed every 3 months. CD4+ T cell level and viral load (VL) are key indicators that reflect the level of immune reconstitution and drug efficacy during the treatment process, and they need to be tested at least once a year. The drug resistance test helps to understand the response of the virus to the drug.



The cost of the key items in the treatment is as follows:

ITEMS	COST (CNY)
Initial treatment (liver function, kidney function, blood routine, urinalysis, blood lipid, electrolytes, CD4+ T cell, viral load, drug resistance, bone density, electrocardiogram, etc.)	About 5000
Routine blood tests (liver function, kidney function, blood routine, urinalysis, blood lipid, electrolytes)	About 450
CD4+ T cell	400
Viral load (VL)	1200
Drug resistance	500-800

There are some commercial insurances for antiretroviral treatments for foreigners, and you can consult with commercial insurance companies and the charging window of the hospital you visit. You need to provide documents such as diagnosis certificate, medical records and invoices to reimburse. Remember to remind the doctor to provide the above documents. The charging standards for foreigners for medical services are the same as for Chinese citizens. However, when visiting a VIP clinic, the registration fee and examination fee are higher than those of ordinary clinics.

Antiretroviral treatment requires people living with HIV to insist on taking drugs every day on time to inhibit viral replication. The recommended first-line regimen for adults in China's national free drug program is Tenofovir Disoproxil Fumarate (TDF) or Zidovudine (AZT)+ Lamivudine (3TC) + Efavirenz (EFV) or Nevirapine (NVP). The WHO 2019 treatment guidelines recommend a combination of integrase inhibitors as the core of the first-line antiretroviral drug regimen for adults: Tenofovir Disoproxil Fumarate (TDF)+ Lamivudine (3TC) or Emtricitabine (FTC)+ Dolutegravir (DTG), or Tenofovir Disoproxil Fumarate (TDF) + Lamivudine (3TC) or Emtricitabine (FTC) + Efavirenz (EFV) or Raltegravir (RAL).

Recommendations (2019)

First-line ARV drug regimen*

1. DTG in combination with an NRTI backbone is recommended as the preferred first-line regimen for people living with HIV initiating ART.^a
 - Adults and adolescents^c (strong recommendation, moderate-certainty evidence).
 - Infants and children with approved DTG dosing^d (conditional recommendation, low-certainty evidence).
2. EFV at low dose (400 mg) in combination with an NRTI backbone is recommended as the alternative first-line regimen for adults and adolescents living with HIV initiating ART^a (strong recommendation, moderate-certainty evidence).^b
3. A RAL-based regimen may be recommended as the preferred first-line regimen for neonates (conditional recommendation, very-low-certainty evidence).

Consolidated guidelines on HIV prevention, testing, treatment, service delivery and monitoring: recommendations for a public health approach

At present, there are different drug regimens for people living with HIV in China to choose, and the price ranges from 1000–4000CNY per month. The types and the reference price of a single bottle of drugs available by prescription for the treatment of HIV, PrEP and PEP are as follows (as of December 2021) :



Dolutegravir Sodium Tablets
(DTG)
980 CNY



Raltegravir Potassium Tablets
(RAL)
1980 CNY



Doravirine Tablets
(DOR)
980 CNY



Tenofovir Disoproxil Fumarate tablets
(TDF)
563.5 CNY



Emtricitabine and Tenofovir Disoproxil Fumarate
(TDF/FTC)
1980 CNY



Elvitegravir, Cobicistat Emtricitabine and Tenofovir Alafenamide Fumarate
(EVG/c/TAF/FTC)
1290 CNY



**Emtricitabine and
Tenofovir Disoproxil
Fumarate**

(TDF/FTC)

1980 CNY



**Elvitegravir, Cobicistat,
Emtricitabine
and Tenofovir
Alafenamide Fumarate**

(TDF/FTC)

1290 CNY



**Lamivudine and
Dolutegravir
Sodium Tablets**

(DTG/3TC)

1880 CNY



**Bictegravir Sodium,
Emtricitabine and
Tenofovir Alafenamide
Fumarate Tablets**

(BIC/TAF/FTC)

3680 CNY



Darunavir/Cobicistat

(DRV/c)

1500 CNY



**Emtricitabine and
Tenofovir Alafenamide
Fumarate Tablets**

(TAF/FTC)

2280 CNY



Doravirine, Lamivudine
and Tenofovir
Disoproxil Fumarate
Tablets

(DOR/3TC/TDF)

1390 CNY



Dolutegravir Sodium,
Abacavir and
Lamivudine Tablets

(DTG/ABC/3TC)

2880 CNY

PART IV

OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES

Many CBOs that provide HIV-related counseling and assistance services are active in various cities in China. They are proficient in AIDS-related knowledge and information, and they are in close contact with local CDCs, AIDS designated hospitals, and other CBOs. It can provide HIV rapid testing, and consultation for PrEP and PEP, HIV diagnosis referral, antiretroviral drugs, medical service and sexually transmitted disease referral services. Therefore, if you encounter any problems related to HIV, you can contact CBOs for help.

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