

Accessing HIV Testing and Treatment for Visa Holders

Accessing HIV treatment without Medicare

If you are living in New South Wales (NSW) on a temporary visa as a student, backpacker or awaiting a visa outcome you may have questions about accessing HIV testing and care.

Many people are unsure about eligibility, cost and confidentiality. This factsheet provides clear, practical information so you can access HIV care with confidence.



Free HIV-related care is available to everyone in NSW, including people without access to Medicare.

HIV Testing in NSW is:

- Free
- Confidential
- Available to everyone (including temporary visa holders)

You do not need:

- Medicare
- Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)
- A referral

Where to get tested:

- Sexual health clinics
- Some general practitioners (GP's)
- University health services
- Community health centres



HIV Treatment and care

If you are living with HIV or have tested positive for HIV, treatment and care are available in NSW regardless of visa status. This includes HIV-specialist care through public hospitals, ongoing monitoring (such as blood tests and check-ups), and clinical support.

HIV treatment is provided free through public hospital services and sexual health clinics, even if you do not have Medicare. However some related services, such as GP visits or medications outside hospital programs, may not be free depending on your insurance.

Sexual Health Clinics in NSW

Public sexual health clinics are an important entry point to prevention and care.

They offer:

- Free HIV and STI testing
- Advice on prevention (including PrEP and PEP)
- Referrals to specialist HIV services
- Support navigating the health system
- Access to medication
- Free and confidential

You can attend:

- Without Medicare
- Without insurance
- Without a referral



Key things to remember

- HIV testing and treatment in NSW is FREE and CONFIDENTIAL
- HIV treatment is available to everyone, regardless of visa status
- You do not need Medicare to access HIV-related services
- Accessing care does not affect your employment or visa
- You have the right to ask questions and receive respectful care

If you require support accessing treatment or information on where you can receive free testing and care, contact Positive Life NSW and speak with a Peer Navigator.

For more information phone 02 8357 8386 or 1800 245 677 (freecall) or visit www.positivelife.org.au

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The voice of all people living with HIV

Positive Life NSW