Notes

Entry inhibitors
- These include CCR5 inhibitors and fusion inhibitors.

‘Nukes’ and ‘non-nukes’
- The correct scientific name for ‘nukes’ is nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs, for short). The scientific name for ‘non-nukes’ is non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs).

For more information on this topic:
- read NAM’s fact sheets ‘HIV treatment’ and ‘HIV lifecycle’
- read Terrence Higgins Trust’s booklet ‘Your treatment’, or
- speak to an adviser at THT Direct (phone: 0808 802 1221).

For more information about HIV
You can get free fact sheets, booklets, email bulletins and a newsletter from our website at www.aidsmap.com/resources. You can get answers to common questions at www.aidsmap.com/hiv-basics and find local services at www.aidsmap.com/e-atlas.

Contact us by calling 020 3242 0820 or by sending an email to info@nam.org.uk

Want to find out more?

Has this resource been useful to you?
Please let us know what you think by visiting our website at www.aidsmap.com/feedback, phoning us or sending an email to info@nam.org.uk. Your feedback helps us to improve the services we offer you.

You can contact us to find out more about the scientific research and information we have used to produce this leaflet.

We recommend that you discuss the information in this leaflet with a doctor or other health worker.
HIV treatment helps you stay well by reducing the amount of HIV in your body.

All anti-HIV drugs try to prevent HIV infecting new cells. But different types of drugs do this in different ways. A combination of two different types of drugs provides a powerful attack on HIV. The aim of treatment is an ‘undetectable viral load’ – very low levels of HIV in the blood.

Here’s how HIV infects cells in the body. The different drugs interfere with different parts of the process.

1. HIV attaches itself to a CD4 cell. CD4 cells are an important part of our immune system, the body’s defence system.

2. Inside the cell, HIV changes its structure.

3. HIV hides itself deeper in the cell.

4. More HIV is produced.

5. The new HIV pushes out from the cell, and moves on to find other cells to infect.

Important points

- Each type of drug blocks HIV in a different way.
- We take a combination of several drugs to give a strong attack on HIV.
- The aim of treatment is to have as little HIV as possible.