



# Treatments for MS:

## Aubagio® (teriflunomide)

**There is a range of disease modifying therapies approved for people with relapsing remitting MS in Australia. These therapies, also called immunotherapies, work to reduce disease activity in the central nervous system and reduce the frequency and severity of relapses in people with MS.**

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### What is Aubagio® and how does it work?

Aubagio® is a pyrimidine synthesis inhibitor. It works as an immunomodulatory agent with anti-inflammatory properties. Aubagio® is the brand name for teriflunomide in Australia.

In MS, certain types of white blood cells (called lymphocytes) play a role in destroying myelin, the protective sheath that surrounds nerve fibres and helps with the efficient flow of nerve signals or messages to and from the brain and various parts of the body.

Aubagio® blocks the action of specific enzymes in the body so that these lymphocytes are stopped from dividing.

This is thought to reduce the number of lymphocytes and interfere with their ability to produce the disease response and nerve damage that ultimately leads to relapses.

In clinical trials<sup>1</sup> Aubagio® has been shown to:

- reduce the frequency of relapses.<sup>2</sup>
  - delay progression of physical disability.<sup>3</sup>
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### How is Aubagio® administered?

Aubagio® is a film coated oral tablet. The usual dose for this medicine is one 14 mg tablet per day. You receive a month's supply, which consists of 28 tablets. It can be taken either with or without food.

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### What are the potential side effects of Aubagio® treatment?

Aubagio® helps most people with MS, but it may have side effects in some people. The most frequent side effects of Aubagio® in clinical trials and post-marketing experience included nausea, elevated liver enzymes, diarrhoea and hair thinning. Less frequent effects include increased blood pressure and skin disorders. On rare occasions some people may develop liver or blood problems, gastrointestinal disorders, severe skin reactions and hypersensitivity reactions.

Animal studies indicate that Aubagio® may increase the risk of birth defects. Aubagio® should not be taken by women who are pregnant or breast-feeding. Women of childbearing potential must use reliable and effective contraception while taking Aubagio®.

Your doctor or pharmacist can provide comprehensive information on the use of Aubagio®, including precautions and side effects.

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## How much does Aubagio® cost?

Aubagio® has been approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and is available through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). Please discuss with your neurologist whether Aubagio® is the right treatment for you. Your neurologist will need to obtain an authority to prescribe the medication for you.

If you are eligible for medications through the PBS, you will need to pay a contribution fee each time your prescription is dispensed. The Federal Government pays for the remaining cost. The amount of the contribution fee depends upon whether or not you have a pension or concession card. The amount of this fee is set each year by the Federal Government.

Further information about the PBS, your entitlements and details regarding the PBS safety net (which protects patients and their families requiring a large number of PBS items) is available through the Medicare Australia website at: [www.medicare.gov.au](http://www.medicare.gov.au)

If you are not eligible for Aubagio® through the PBS, for example if you are a visitor from overseas, your neurologist may write a private prescription. In this instance you will have to pay the full cost to the pharmacy that dispenses your medication. You will need to request a quote from your pharmacist for the price of any medication which is not subsidised by the PBS.

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## General information

Not all pharmacies keep Aubagio® in stock. It is therefore important to let your pharmacist know a few days before you need this medication so that they can order it in for you.

In Australia, Aubagio® is supplied by:  
Sanofi Genzyme, Building D, 12-24 Talavera Rd  
Macquarie Park, NSW, 2113

Sanofi Genzyme runs a patient support program called MS One to One for people using Aubagio®. Call 1800 222 121, or speak to your neurologist or MS nurse for further information.

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## For more information on MS and other MS treatments

- Speak to your neurologist about what treatment best suits your individual circumstances.
- MS Nurses can also provide information, training and ongoing support in managing your immunotherapy.
- For information about MS, MS treatment and to find contact details for your state MS organization visit [www.msaustralia.org.au](http://www.msaustralia.org.au)
- MS Research Australia provides information on the latest research and clinical trials at [www.msra.org.au](http://www.msra.org.au)

## References

1. Aubagio® Approved Product Information, December 2016  
<https://www.ebs.tga.gov.au/ebs/picmi/picmirepository.nsf/pdf?OpenAgent&id=CP-2012-PI-02971-1>
  2. O'Connor PW, Li D, Freedman MS et al. A Phase II study of the safety and efficacy of teriflunomide in multiple sclerosis with relapses. *Neurol* 2006;66:894-900
  3. O'Connor P, Wolinsky JS, Confavreux C et al. Randomized trial of oral teriflunomide for relapsing multiple sclerosis *NEJM* 2011; 365: 1293-303
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### Note:

MS Australia does not recommend any specific disease-modifying treatment for people living with MS. Decisions about any treatments, taking into consideration the potential benefits and side effects for each individual's circumstances, should be made in careful consultation with the person's neurologist.

The information supplied in this document is collated from material provided by the relevant pharmaceutical company, MIMS (<http://www.mims.com.au>) and MS Research Australia.