



1 December 2024 is **WORLD AIDS DAY**

World AIDS Day shines a light on the real experiences of people living with HIV today, while celebrating the strength, resilience and diversity of the communities most affected.

While there is no cure for HIV infection, with access to effective HIV prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care, including for opportunistic infections, HIV infection has become a manageable chronic health condition, enabling people living with HIV to lead long and healthy lives.

Nearly
40 MILLION PEOPLE
live with the virus globally
– 65% of them live in Africa.
42 million people have
died of HIV or AIDS-related
illnesses over the past 40
years, making it a global
public health issue.
(WHO)

95%

By 2025:

of all people living with HIV should have a **diagnosis**.

should be taking lifesaving antiretroviral **treatment**.

of people living with HIV on treatment should achieve a suppressed viral load for the benefit of their health and for **reducing onward HIV transmission**.



HOW THE SCHEME CAN HELP YOU

If you think you may be at risk, it's vital to get tested. AECI Medical Aid Society covers two tests per beneficiary per year performed by a registered nurse at a pharmacy as part of the Scheme's general health screenings.

If you are HIV-positive or have been exposed to HIV infection, the Scheme's HIV management programme, facilitated by Aid for AIDS (AfA), offers members and beneficiaries these benefits:

- Medicine to treat HIV at the most appropriate time
- Treatment to prevent opportunistic infections
- Regular monitoring of disease progression and response to therapy
- Regular monitoring tests to pick up possible side-effects of treatment
- Ongoing patient support via a Nurse-Line

- Clinical guidelines and telephonic support for doctors
- Help in finding a registered counsellor for emotional support

The Scheme's relevant options also cover Immune Deficiency Syndrome related to HIV Infection as follows: (All medication is subject to approval.)

- **COMPREHENSIVE** No limit
- **COMPREHENSIVE SELECT** No limit but medication is subject to the use of a DSP. 40% co-payment for the voluntary use of a non-DSP.
- **VALUE** No limit but medication is subject to the use of a Network Provider.



If you have any questions about HIV testing and treatment, how to register on the programme or for confidential advice on the illness, contact Aid for AIDS as follows: