

A PRACTICAL SHORT GUIDE FOR FOREIGNERS LIVING WITH HIV AND WHO ARE TEMPORARILY IN ITALY FOR STUDY PURPOSES, WORK OR FOR FAMILY REASONS.

This short guide arises from the unmet needs of answering the many questions our organization NPS Italia Onlus has received regarding the modalities of access to treatment from the many foreigners living with HIV and currently living in our country who may have an unexpected need of antiretrovirals.

The aim is that of illustrating the path that has to be taken by a foreigner with HIV living in Italy in order to avoid therapeutic interruptions in case he/she, for study purposes, work or family reasons, should unexpectedly have to extend his/her stay in Italy.

The right to healthcare in our country is established by article 32 of the Italian Constitution and a similar fundamental right is established at European level, regardless of the personal conditions of the single individual.

In order to simplify the procedure to access therapy, we recommend all people living with HIV and who are coming to our country to bring with them:

- a prescription of their antiretrovirals from their country of origin, if possible translated in at least one of the following languages (English, French, Spanish);
- a brief description of their clinical record written by their doctor, even this must be translated in at least one of the following languages (English, French, Spanish);

It is also necessary to have:

- an employment contract, or
- a study permit;
- a valid passport or ID card.

If the quantity of antiretrovirals in possession of a person living with HIV and temporarily staying in Italy (3-6 months) should not be sufficient, he/she can go to any of the main infectious disease clinics of the region where he/she is living.

We hereby provide a list of the main hospitals where it would be easier to get this kind of service for people living with HIV. They are hospitals situated in the major cities of the Italian regions, specifically dedicated to infectious diseases and adequately equipped to provide such services, with an emergency unit and the presence of cultural/linguistic mediators.

Link

In order to access the service it is necessary to go first to the Emergency Unit (Pronto Soccorso) of the healthcare centre indicated in the list. A clinical record will be filled in and, if considered necessary a blood test will be taken to confirm the clinical status of the patient (CD4 and viral load). At this point antiretrovirals will be supplied, guaranteeing therapeutic continuity without any costs for the patient.

If the period of stay should be longer, it would no longer be considered a temporary request for healthcare and therefore the procedure would be different from what has been described, in these cases our National Healthcare System (SSN) calls for a different procedure, which is described in the ministerial guide at the following link:

http://www.salute.gov.it/imgs/C_17_opuscoliPoster_199_allegato.pdf

