FAIRVIEW PHARMACY — EST. 1978

Taking Descovy safely

emtricitabine + tenofovir alafenamide · for HIV treatment and PrEP

3 MISTAKES TO AVOID

1 Thinking it's a complete HIV treatment

For HIV treatment, always take Descovy with your other prescribed HIV medicines.

2 PrEP without regular HIV tests

Test before starting, at least every 3 months, and after any STI diagnosis.

3 Stopping on your own with hepatitis B

Stopping suddenly can cause a serious hepatitis B flare. Talk to your provider first.

How to take it

- **1 tablet once a day, with or without food.**
- **HIV treatment:** Descovy is one part of your regimen, never the whole regimen.
- **PrEP:** only for people who are HIV-negative. Don't miss doses; missed doses raise your risk.

PrEP checklist (mistake #2)

- HIV test **right before you start**, **at least every 3 months**, and **after any STI diagnosis**.
- Flu-like symptoms (fever, sore throat, rash, swollen glands)? **Call us right away.**
- Descovy doesn't prevent other STIs, so condoms still matter.
- Descovy for PrEP isn't approved for people at risk from receptive vaginal sex. Ask your provider which PrEP is right for you.

Check with us first

- Not recommended: rifampin, rifabutin, rifapentine, St. John's wort. Some seizure medicines lower its levels.
- Kidney blood and urine tests before you start and while you take it.

IMPORTANT

Hepatitis B? Never stop Descovy without talking to your provider first. You'll be tested for hepatitis B before you start.

Call your care team right away if you notice

- Unusual tiredness or weakness, muscle pain, fast breathing
- Stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, fast heartbeat (possible lactic acidosis, rare but serious)
- Yellow skin or eyes, dark urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite

EMERGENCY: CALL 911

Symptoms feel severe? Call 911.

Good to know

Pregnant, planning to be, or breastfeeding? Talk with your provider. Most common side effect: nausea (treatment), diarrhea (PrEP).

Every conversation with Fairview is private.

Questions? Ask Dr. Mike at fairviewpharm.com/medications

Leave a message: 601-640-4671 · 500 Katie Ave, Hattiesburg, MS

Medically reviewed by Dr. Mike Acheampong, Pharmacist, Fairview Pharmacy · October 2026

This handout is for education only and is not medical advice. Talk with your doctor or pharmacist about your medicines.
Source: FDA prescribing information and Medication Guide for DESCOVY (rev. 7/2026). DESCOVY is a trademark of its owner.

Scan for the full guide