There are currently several disease-modifying therapies approved for people with MS in Australia. These therapies, called immunotherapies, work to reduce disease activity in the central nervous system and reduce the frequency and severity of relapses in people with MS.

What is Rebif® and how does it work with MS?

The active ingredient of Rebif® is interferon beta-1a (rch). Interferons are proteins produced naturally in the human body to help fight infections and regulate the immune system. Beta interferons have been shown to slow down activity and disease progression in MS. They do this by helping regulate the immune system, reducing attacks on myelin. In clinical trials Rebif® (interferon beta-1a (rch)) significantly decreased the frequency of MS relapses and slowed down the accrual of disability.

How is Rebif® administered?

Rebif® is taken three times a week (e.g. Monday, Wednesday and Friday) by subcutaneous (under the skin) injection. You receive a month’s supply which consists of twelve injections.

Rebif® is available through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). As it is an expensive medication, your doctor will need to obtain an authority to prescribe the medication for you, and only a neurologist can write your first prescription. There are a number of criteria you must meet before your doctor gains authority to write this prescription.

For details of the criteria required to receive a prescription for Rebif® treatment through the PBS, please visit the official PBS website at: http://www.pbs.gov.au/medicine/item/8403G

You will need to click on the red Authority Required (STREAMLINED) link.


Delivery Devices

You can choose from four different delivery devices for Rebif®

1. RebiSmart® - an electronic auto-injection device with multi-dose cartridge
2. RebiSlide® - a manual auto-injector with multi-dose cartridge
3. RebiDose® - a pre-filled, single use disposable auto-injection device
4. RebiJect® - a pre-filled syringe with auto injection device
Rebif® (interferon beta-1a (rch))

For assistance and training on how to use the delivery devices please contact Merck Medical Information on 1800 073 243 Monday to Friday between the hours of 9.00am to 5.00pm

How much does Rebif® cost?

If you are eligible for medications through the PBS, you will need to pay a contribution fee for each month’s supply. 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 and the number of prescriptions you have had dispensed in a year. The amount of this fee is set each year by the Federal Government. In 2016 the fee for people with a Medicare card is $38.30. The fee is $6.20 for people with a Medicare card and a pension or concession card.

Information about the PBS and your entitlements are available on the Medicare Australia website at: www.medicare.gov.au

General Information

Most pharmacies do not keep Rebif® in stock. They will place an order with the manufacturer to have stock delivered to the pharmacy especially for you. It is therefore important to let your pharmacist know a few days before you need the medication.

Rebif® should be stored at 2-8°C in the original packing to protect it from light. Should refrigeration be temporarily unavailable, Rebif can be stored at 25°C for up to 14 days, then put back in the refrigerator and used before the expiry date. ¹

Rebif® is manufactured by:

Merck Serono Australia Pty Ltd
Unit 3-4
25 Frenchs Forest Road
Frenchs Forest
NSW 2086

Merck Serono is a division of Merck.

Merck has a toll free Medical Information and Customer Service line: 1800 073 243 Monday to Friday between the hours of 9.00am to 5.00pm.
For more information on MS and other MS treatments:

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

**Please note:** MS Australia does not recommend any specific treatment for people living with MS. Decisions about any treatments, taking into consideration a person’s individual circumstances and the potential benefits and side effects, should be made in careful consultation with the person’s neurologist and other healthcare providers as appropriate.


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