

# Treatments for MS:

## Ozanimod (Zeposia®)

**There is a range of disease modifying therapies approved for people with MS in Australia. These therapies, also called immunotherapies, work to reduce disease activity in the central nervous system in people with multiple sclerosis (MS).**

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### What is ozanimod (Zeposia®) and how does it work?

Ozanimod (brand name Zeposia®) is used to treat adult patients with relapsing forms of MS. Zeposia® contains an active substance called ozanimod, which belongs to a group of medicines called sphingosine-1-phosphate (S1P) receptor modulators. Ozanimod belongs to the same class of drugs as Gilenya® (fingolimod) and Mayzent® (siponimod).

Zeposia® can affect the ability of some white blood cells to move freely within the body and stops them from reaching the central nervous system (the brain, spine and optic nerve), where they can cause inflammation and damage. In doing so, Zeposia® may help protect against attacks on the nerves, reduce inflammation and damage to the nerves' protective coating and slow down the progression of disability.

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### How is ozanimod (Zeposia®) administered?

Ozanimod (Zeposia®) is taken as a film-coated capsule, once daily.

Before you start taking Zeposia®, your doctor will conduct liver and blood tests prior to starting you on Zeposia®. You will also have an electrocardiogram (also called an ECG), which measures and records the heart's rhythm and activity.

When you first start taking Zeposia®, you will receive an 'initiation pack'. Your treatment will start at a lower dose and will gradually be increased over the first 7 days of treatment. This is to minimise the risk of heart rate reductions. On Day 8 and thereafter, once you have completed the 'initiation pack', you will move on to a 'maintenance pack' with orange capsules each containing the recommended dose of 920 microgram of Zeposia®. You will continue regular treatment with one 920 microgram capsule daily.

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### What are the possible side effects of ozanimod (Zeposia®)?

Ozanimod (Zeposia®) helps most people with RRMS, but it may have unwanted side effects in some people. All medicines can have side effects. Tell your doctor if you notice anything that is making you feel unwell.

The most common side effects reported in the phase III studies were nasopharyngitis (common cold), headache, chest infections and urinary tract infections. Ozanimod caused temporary increases in liver enzymes which generally returned to normal levels without the need to stop treatment.

**Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant or are breast-feeding, or in the three months after you stop taking it, because there is a risk of harm to your unborn baby. You should not breast-feed while taking Zeposia®.**

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**Tell your doctor if you are taking any other medicines, including any that you get without prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.**

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## How much does ozanimod (Zeposia®) cost?

Ozanimod (Zeposia®) was approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) in July 2020 for the treatment of adults with relapsing multiple sclerosis in Australia.

As Zeposia® has specific patient management requirements, only neurologists are able to initiate treatment. Your neurologist will need to obtain a special authority (section 100 – ‘Highly Specialised Drugs Program’) to prescribe you with the medication. There are a number of criteria you are required to meet before your neurologist obtains authority to write this prescription.

For details of the criteria required to receive a prescription for Zeposia® treatment through the PBS, please visit the official PBS website at: <http://www.pbs.gov.au> You will need to click on the red **Authority Required (STREAMLINED)** link.

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)

Please consult your neurologist to see if Zeposia® is the right treatment for you.

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## General information

In Australia, ozanimod (Zeposia®) is supplied by:

Bristol Myers Squibb  
Level 2/4 Nexus Court  
Mulgrave VIC 3170

## 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)
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## References:

1. [MS Trust UK – mstrust.org.uk/a-z/ozanimod](https://mstrust.org.uk/a-z/ozanimod)
2. [MS Research Australia news item](#) regarding ozanimod, including details regarding the clinical trials
3. Consumer Medicine Information (CMI) for ozanimod, please visit [www.tga.gov.au](http://www.tga.gov.au) (search for ozanimod)

### 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 and MS Research Australia.