

Updated Pediatric HIV Guidelines Nod to Tivicay for Infants

New guidelines from the Department of Health and Human Services went into effect immediately.

April 15, 2021 By [Heather Boerner](#)

On April 7, the Department of Health and Human Services released its latest updated treatment guidelines for children and infants with HIV. The [Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in Pediatric HIV Infection](#) were [last updated](#) in 2019.

The recent update gives a big nod to Tivicay (dolutegravir) and Biktarvy (bictegravir/emtricitabine/tenofovir alafenamide) as preferred regimens for children but doesn't recommend starting children on Selzentry (maraviroc) due to drug interactions and twice-daily dosing, among other potential drawbacks.

Here are more details:

- Specifically, the guidelines recommend Tivicay PD, a water-dispersible tablet, for treatment-experienced infants and children at least 4 weeks old, in combination with two nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs). This is a change from the previous guidelines, which limited that treatment to children at least 3 years old. The Food and Drug Administration [approved the dispersible tablet](#) for infants in June 2020.
- Biktarvy is now the preferred regimen for children at least 6 years old and weighing at least 25 kilograms.
- As a second-line treatment in case Biktarvy or Tivicay PD fail to control HIV, the panel recommends Isentress (raltegravir) in combination with two NRTIs for infants age 4 months or older. Like Selzentry, Isentress in infants must be taken twice a day.
- As for NRTIs, the guidelines recommend that infants age 1 month or older start on abacavir plus lamivudine (the drugs in the Epzicom combination pill) or abacavir (Ziagen) plus emtricitabine

(Emtriva).

- This bumps zidovudine (AZT, or Retrovir) down to an alternative NRTI for infants age 1 month or older.

Click here to read an announcement [about these changes](#).

Click here to read the [full pediatric treatment recommendations](#).

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