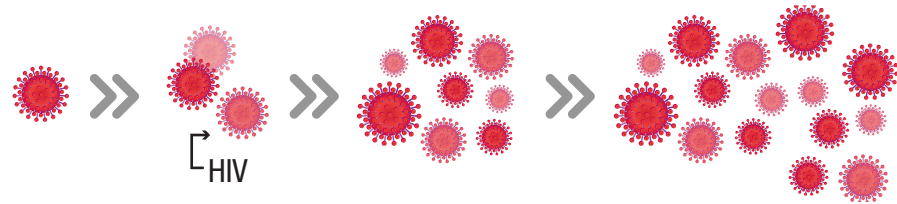
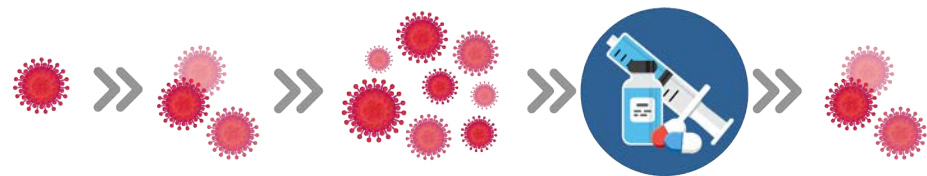


# HIV Drug Resistance

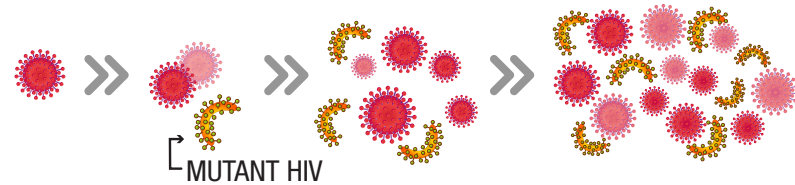
**1** Once someone has HIV, the virus begins to multiply.



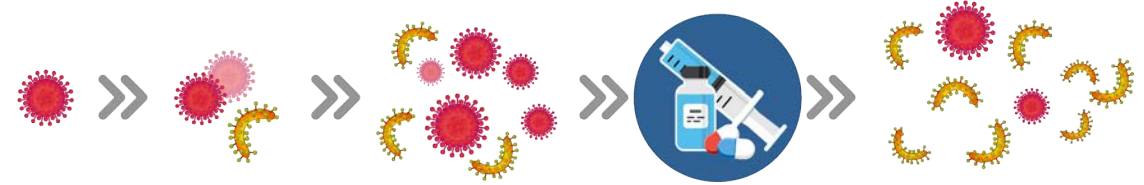
**2** HIV medicines block HIV from multiplying. Taking HIV medicine daily reduces the amount of HIV in the body.



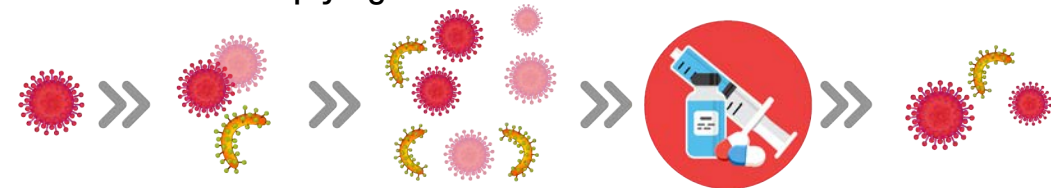
**3** Sometimes, when HIV medicines aren't taken as directed, the virus begins to multiply again. As HIV multiplies, the virus can change form (or mutate).



**4** Some mutations can cause HIV drug resistance. This means the original HIV medicines stop working, and the new mutant virus continues to multiply uncontrolled.



**5** Once drug-resistant HIV develops, different HIV medicines are needed to block the virus from multiplying.



Drug-resistant HIV can be transmitted from person to person after inconsistent HIV medicine use.

**Remember:** Taking HIV medicines as directed block HIV from multiplying. Having less HIV in the body reduces the chances that the virus will mutate to drug-resistant HIV. Talk to your care team about HIV drug resistance. Take your HIV medicine as prescribed.



For more information, visit [HIVinfo.NIH.gov](https://www.hivinfo.nih.gov).