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Factors determining who can take Viagra

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Compact facts and summary

Sildenafil is the active molecule in brand products such as Viagra and in many generics. It is commonly supplied for erectile dysfunction (ED) and is formulated as sildenafil citrate. Typical tablet strengths available in Australia for ED include 25 mg, 50 mg and 100 mg.

Sildenafil products intended for pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) are different in dose and sometimes in formulation; do not substitute PAH preparations for ED use unless instructed by a clinician.

Note: sildenafil supports the erectile process in response to sexual stimulation but does not create sexual desire or automatic erections without stimulation.

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Who qualifies to be prescribed sildenafil?

Approved primary use for ED applies to men and people assigned male at birth who are adults. Sildenafil is not routinely prescribed for women or for persons under 18 for the indication of ED.

- Adult patients with erectile dysfunction after assessment by a prescriber.
- People with diagnosed pulmonary arterial hypertension may receive sildenafil under different brand names and dosing; follow the PAH-specific regimen supplied by your health professional.
- Not a suitable first-line option for those who have medical reasons to avoid sexual activity, or who are on interacting medicines such as nitrates.

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Explaining how sildenafil works

Sildenafil inhibits the enzyme phosphodiesterase type 5 (PDE5) in penile tissue, which slows the breakdown of cyclic GMP (cGMP). When sexual stimulation causes nitric oxide release, cGMP accumulates, smooth muscle relaxes and blood flow into the corpus cavernosum increases. By preserving cGMP, sildenafil helps maintain an erection once sexual arousal starts.

Because the drug relies on the natural sexual response, it will not produce an erection without stimulation.

For two-way communication in actions can be viewed as exchanges of key information. with other medicines and substances, see the section on [medication social the process of interactions influence perceptions and decisions..](#)

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Proper use and dose guidelines guidance

A commonly recommended starting dose for ED is 50 mg taken about 30 to 60 minutes before sexual activity. Onset can occur within 15 minutes for some users and effects may last up to approximately 4 hours.

- If 50 mg is not tolerated, a prescriber may reduce the dose to 25 mg.
- If 50 mg is insufficient, and no reasons to avoid this medication exist, a clinician may consider increasing to 100 mg; do not exceed one dose in any 24 hour period.
- Taking sildenafil after a large, high fat meal can delay onset and reduce peak effect.
- Avoid concurrent grapefruit products, which may raise sildenafil blood levels.
- Alcohol content can reduce erectile response and may increase dizziness when combined with sildenafil.

Patients with significant liver or kidney impairment, or those taking potent CYP3A4 inhibitors, often require a lower starting dose. Look up information your prescriber for personalised instructions.

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Critical interacting effects of medications.

Certain drugs and recreational substances interact dangerously with sildenafil. Always tell your healthcare team about every medicine, supplement and recreational substance you use.

Avoid bringing together sildenafil with:

- Nitrate medicines (for example glyceryl trinitrate or isosorbide mononitrate) or recreational nitrites (poppers) because the combination can cause severe, life-threatening low blood pressure.
- Riociguat and other stimulators of the soluble guanylate cyclase pathway.

This item should be used with caution. and medical supervision when taking:

- Alpha-blockers (for example tamsulosin, doxazosin) due to risk of symptomatic hypotension.

- Strong CYP3A4 inhibitors (for example ritonavir, cobicistat, ketoconazole, itraconazole, clarithromycin) which can raise sildenafil exposure.
- Other antihypertensives or substances that lower blood pressure, including excessive alcohol.
- Other ED therapies or additional PDE5 inhibitors.

For more about stopping or switching medicines literature review [when not to take sildenafil](#) and [general safety preventive precautions](#).

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Hazard notifications of danger and safety measures

- Inform your prescriber of any allergic reactions to sildenafil or to any tablet ingredients.
- Older adults may experience increased dizziness, low blood pressure and visual disturbances; dose adjustments may be necessary.
- Seek assessment before use if you have anatomic penile deformities, blood clotting disorders, a history that predisposes you to priapism, or active peptic ulcer disease.
- Stop and get immediate medical help if you develop chest pain during sex, sudden vision loss, or sudden hearing reduction.
- If you feel faint or have visual disturbances after taking sildenafil, do not drive or operate machinery.

Athletes should check anti-doping rules with Sport Integrity Australia as regulations can change. Sildenafil is not typically considered a performance enhancing drug but off-label use should be discussed with medical and sporting authorities.

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When not to take sildenafil

- If you are using any nitrate-containing therapy or have used recreational nitrites recently.
- If you are taking riociguat or another guanylate cyclase stimulator.

- If you have been advised by a clinician to avoid sexual activity due to cardiovascular risk.
- If you have had a recent heart attack or stroke, uncontrolled low blood pressure, or unstable arrhythmias unless cleared by a specialist.
- If you currently use another ED medication unless directed by a clinician to combine or switch therapies.
- If you have a history of non-arteritic anterior ischemic optic neuropathy that was linked to PDE5 inhibitor exposure.
- Not indicated for ED in women or children under 18 years old.

Refer to the following [medication-potential drug the give and take of interactions in the user journey shape satisfaction.](#) and [critical safety protective steps](#) for additional information, contact us.

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Possible undesirable effects and red flags

Most users experience no effects or only mild, temporary reactions. The more commonly reported negative outcomes include:

- Painful head plus facial flushing.
- Nasal stuffiness or a runny nose (nasal congestion).
- Dyspepsia and indigestion are synonyms related symptoms.
- Moment of lightheadedness or a faint feeling.
- A bout of diarrhoea symptoms noted.

Lesser known effects that may still occur:

- Visual disturbances such as a blue tint, blurred vision or increased light sensitivity.
- Muscle aches or lower back pain.
- Skin rash or hypersensitivity reactions.

Request urgent medical help for suspected stroke chest pain, fainting, a painful erection lasting longer than 4 hours (priapism), sudden loss of vision or sudden severe hearing loss. In suspected overdose event scenarios, refer to [take too much medicine and emergency contacts](#).

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Information about a skipped dose

For ED, sildenafil is taken as needed and also there is no routine schedule; therefore a "dose was skipped" situation does not normally apply. Take a dose only when required and observe the rule of one dose per 24 hours unless your prescriber advises otherwise.

For PAH regimens where sildenafil is taken regularly, follow the instructions provided by your prescriber. If you miss a scheduled dose, do not double the next one; resume the regular schedule as directed.

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Emergency medical response to suspected overdose care contacts

If you suspect an overdose on pills or if a person develops severe symptoms after taking sildenafil, seek immediate medical help. In Australia call emergency services on 000 for an ambulance.

For urgent poisoning advice, contact the Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26 from withsomewhere in Australia. Symptoms of significant to overdose may include severe dizziness, fainting, chest pain, severe nausea, irregular heartbeat or major vision problems.

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Remote in computing, storage means the capacity to retain data over time. solutions and recommendations

- Store tablets at room temperature, around 20 to 25 degrees C.
- Keep medicines in their original packaging to protect from light and moisture.
- Do not store in a bathroom where humidity and heat fluctuate.
- Ensure medicines are kept away from children and pets, out of sight and reach.

Dispose of out-of-date or unwanted medicines according to local pharmacy guidance or government take-back programs.

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Alternative options and analogous treatments

Other pharmacological and non-pharmacological options are available for erectile dysfunction. Choice depends on desired onset and duration of action, side effect profile, the study maps how social interactions evolve over time. and cost.

- Tadalafil (Cialis and generics) has a longer duration of action, with effects lasting up to about 36 hours, and is available as on-demand dosing or low daily dosing.
- Vardenafil (Levitra and generics) provides a similar duration to sildenafil; some formulations dissolve on the tongue for ease of use.
- Avanafil; Spedra can have a faster onset in some users, sometimes effective within 15 minutes.
- Generic sildenafil preparations contain the same active ingredient and are usually less expensive than the branded product.
- Intra-urethral or injectable prostaglandin E1 (alprostadil) works independently of PDE5 pathways and is an option when oral drugs are unsuitable.
- Mechanical devices such as vacuum erection devices and constriction rings can provide non-drug an optional paths.
- Addressing underlying health problems and lifestyle changes (weight loss, smoking cessation, glycemic control, reducing alcohol) and psychological therapies can improve erectile function.

Discuss the full range of options, real time monitoring needs and relative costs with your prescriber or pharmacist. See [price range estimates](#) for indicative Australian costs.

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Typical narrow price ranges in Australia (indicative)

The prices below are approximate private purchase ranges seen at community pharmacies and online Australian vendors. Actual cost depends on brand, pack size, pharmacy markup, and any consultation or delivery fees.

- Generic sildenafil 100 mg: roughly AUD 1.50 to AUD 4.00 per tablet.
- Viagra 100 mg branded tablet: about AUD 15 to AUD 30 per tablet.
- Generic tadalafil 20 mg: about AUD 2 to AUD 6 per tablet.

- Cialis 20 mg brand: about AUD 15 to AUD 25 per tablet.
- Vardenafil 20 mg (generic or Levitra): approximately AUD 10 to AUD 20 per tablet.
- The price for a 200 mg tablet of Spedra, the Avanafil brand is roughly AUD 15 to 30.
- Alprostadil formulations (Caverject or MUSE): prices vary widely, approximately AUD 30 to AUD 150 per dose depending on formulation and pack size.
- Vacuum erection apparatuses: usually a one-off purchase between about AUD 150 and AUD 400.

Note: ED medicines for erectile dysfunction are generally not subsidised under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). Some generics may be PBS-listed for other traces, but confirm PBS status with your pharmacist. Telehealth consultations and home delivery can add fees.

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Regulatory structure and procurement guidelines in Australia

- Scheduling: sildenafil used for erectile dysfunction is a Schedule 4 prescription-only medicine under the Australian Poisons Standard.
- Prescription requirement: a valid prescription from an Australian-registered prescriber is required to obtain sildenafil from an Australian pharmacy. Electronic prescriptions and telehealth prescriptions are permitted if they meet regulatory requirements.
- PBS status: ED use is typically not covered by the PBS, so private payment is usually required.
- Advertising rules: direct-to-consumer advertising of prescription medicines is heavily restricted under Australian law alongside the Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code.
- Personal importation: individuals may import up to a three months supply of a prescription medicine for personal use if they hold a valid prescription merged with the importation meets Therapeutic Goods Administration conditions; retain prescriptions and packaging for customs inspection. Importing for resale is illegal.

- Counterfeit risk: avoid unregulated international websites and suspect products without clear registration; counterfeit PDE5 inhibitors are common and may contain harmful substances or incorrect doses.
- Sporting considerations: sildenafil is generally not prohibited by WADA, but athletes should confirm current rules with Sport Integrity Australia before taking any medication.
- Legal consequences: supplying or possessing prescription medicines without lawful authority can lead to penalties under Commonwealth and state or territory legislation.

Always follow your prescribers instructions and Australian law when obtaining and using sildenafil or other prescription medicines.

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- [Top 5 Fenbendazole over the counter Different tracks endorsed by doctors in 2026](#)
- [Neurontin dosing a capsule summary: forms, strength variants, and usage directions](#)
- [In 2026 doctors green light 5 Ampicillin over the counter Secondary options](#)

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