

The basics

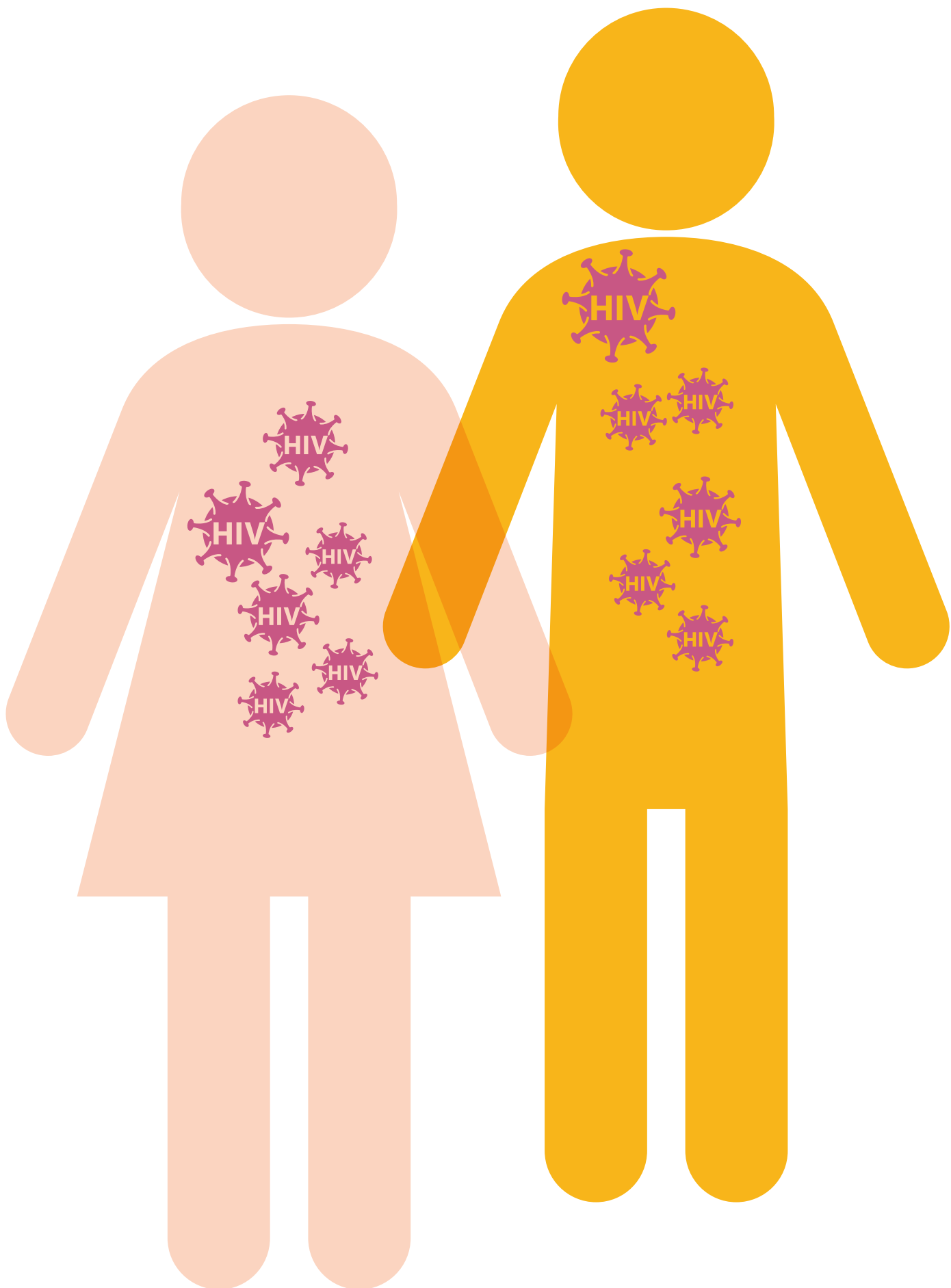
Drug resistance



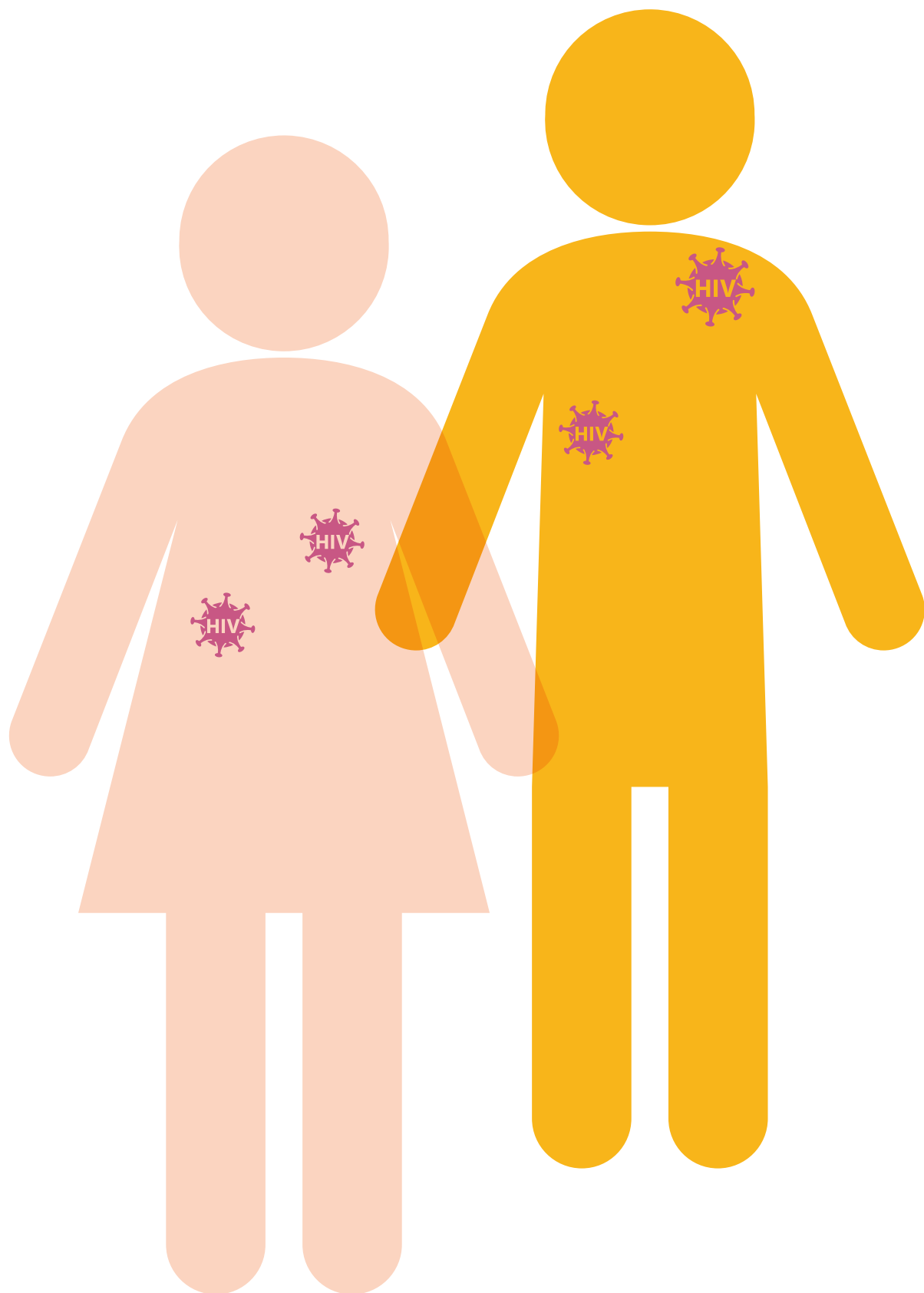
**When HIV is 'drug resistant',
some anti-HIV drugs do not
work properly.**



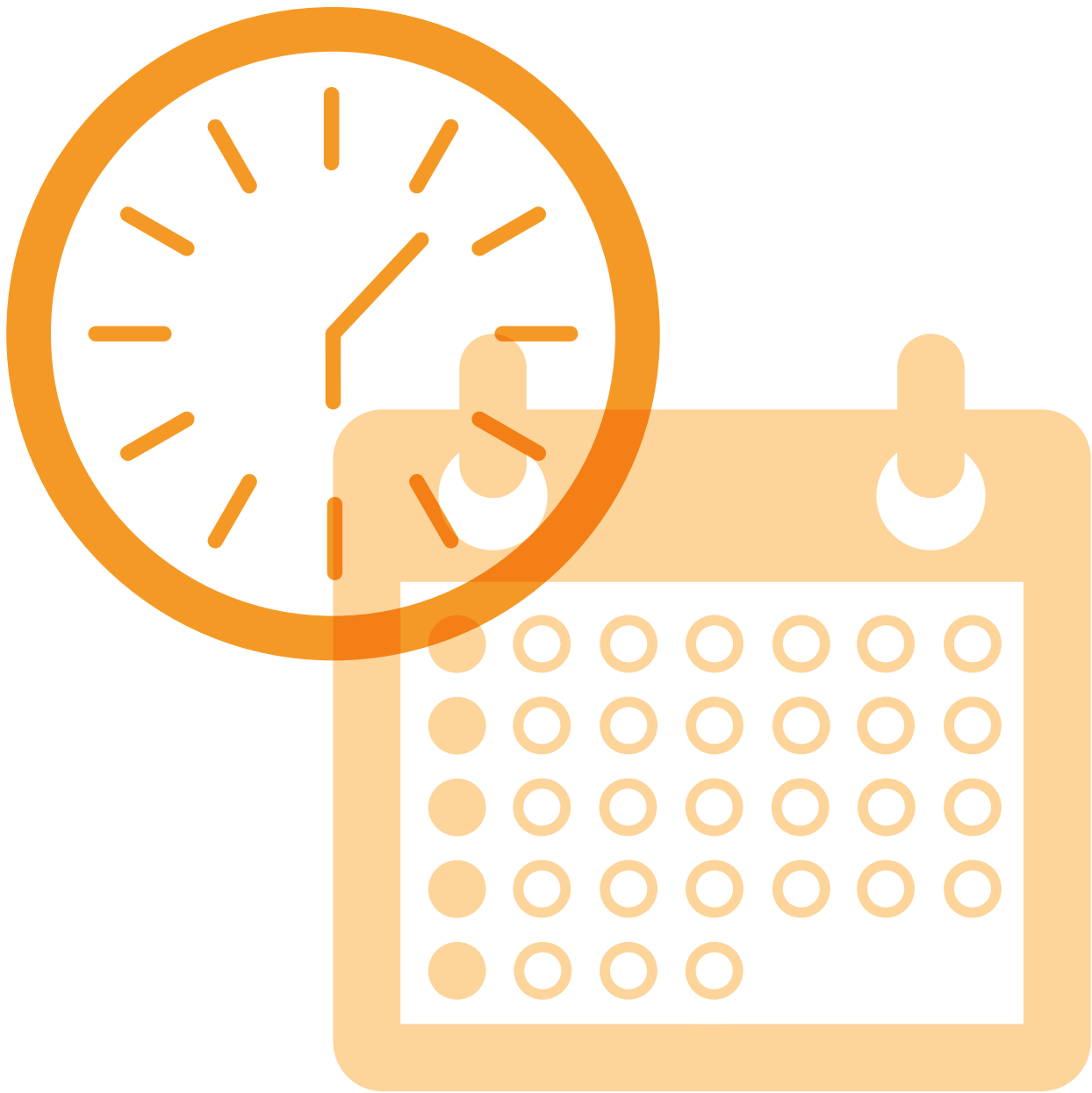
**Every day, HIV tries to infect
cells and multiply inside
the body.**



Anti-HIV drugs stop this happening. If you always take your pills at the right time and in the right amounts, there will be very little HIV in your body.

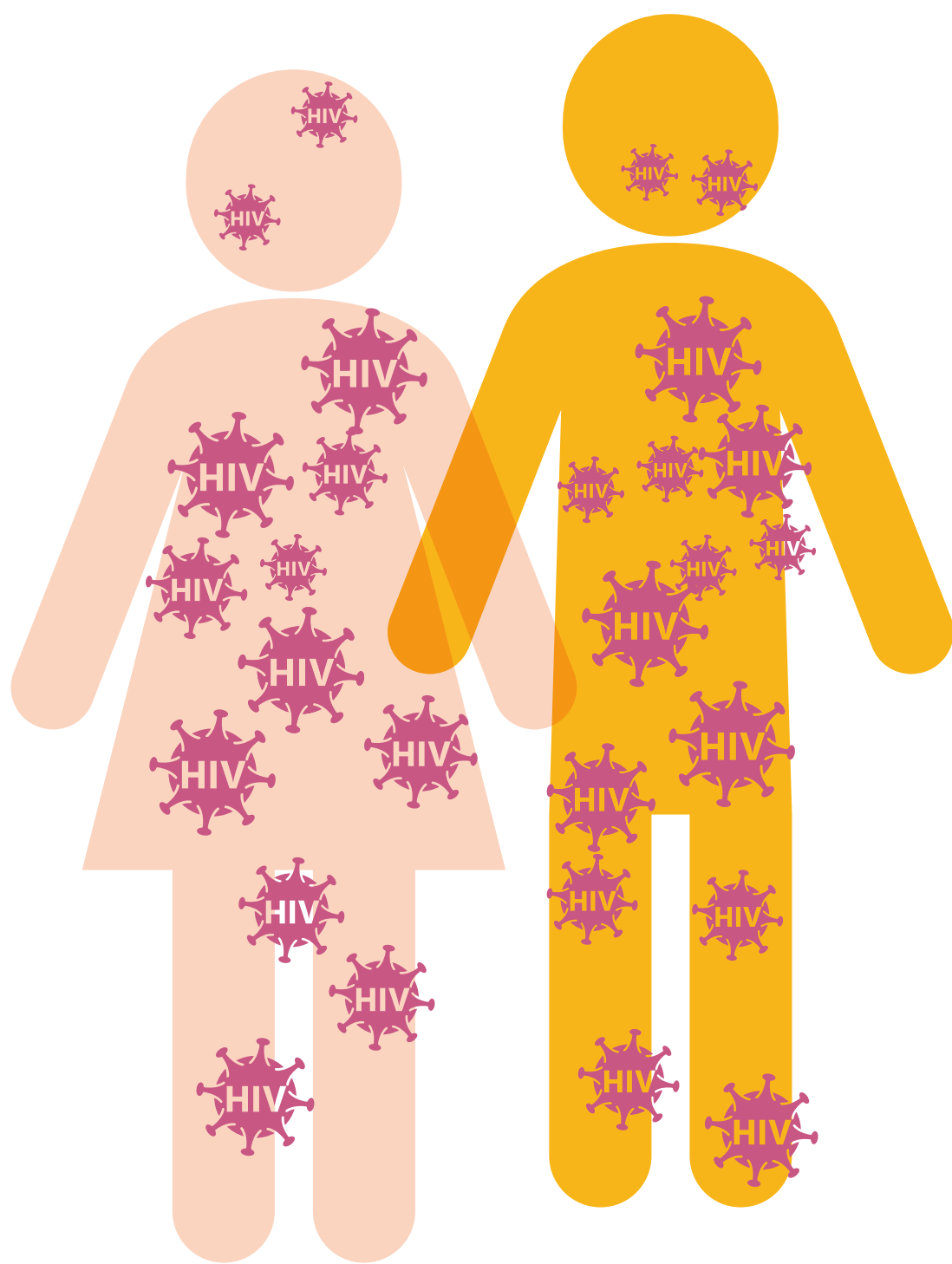


If you sometimes forget to take your pills, or you take them late, there will be more HIV in your body.



- ◆ HIV will then be able to infect new cells and multiply.
- ◆ The HIV may become 'drug resistant'.

If HIV becomes drug resistant, the anti-HIV drugs you are taking at the moment won't work properly.



This means that:

- even when you take your pills, HIV will be able to infect cells and multiply; and
- there will be more and more HIV in your body.

If this happens you will need
to change your treatment.



*The next combination of drugs you are
prescribed may not be as easy to take
and could have more side effects.*

Important points

- It's important to always take your pills at the right time and in the right amounts. If you don't, HIV may become drug resistant.
- If HIV becomes drug resistant, some anti-HIV drugs do not work properly.
- If you have drug resistance, you may need to change the anti-HIV drugs you take.

Notes

It's possible to have drug resistance without ever taking anti-HIV drugs. This is because drug-resistant HIV can be passed on to you (for example, during sex without a condom).

For more information on this topic

- Read our '**Taking drugs on time**' page.
- Read our '**Taking your HIV treatment**' booklet.

For information in other languages

- Visit **www.aidsmap.com/languages**

For more information about HIV

- Visit our website **www.aidsmap.com**
- Speak to an adviser at THT Direct
0808 802 1221

Other titles in The basics series

- Taking drugs on time
- Health checks
- How treatment works

This information isn't intended to replace discussion with your doctor about your treatment and care, but it may help you to think about any questions you'd like to ask your healthcare team.

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