

## Long-Acting Injectable Antipsychotics (LAIs)

Despite being available for over 45 years, long-acting injectable antipsychotics (LAIs) remain an underutilized treatment option for people with serious and persistent mental illness. These injectable medications can help patients better manage their condition and improve long-term outcomes by preventing relapses and improving medication adherence.

- ➔ [New APA Schizophrenia Guidelines](#)

LAIs are used primarily for individuals who struggle with adherence to antipsychotic medications. LAIs have been demonstrated through research to help:

- ➔ Improve adherence
- ➔ Reduce the occurrence and frequency of symptom relapse
- ➔ Reduce rehospitalization
- ➔ Improve treatment outcomes for this population

### Transitioning to an LAI

While some patients start right away on an LAI, others start treatment on oral medications and may prefer using an injectable medication so they do not have the burden of taking daily medications. Below are some tips to keep in mind when considering transitioning a patient to an LAI or initiating treatment with an LAI.

- ➔ Transition with oral medications to make sure the patient can tolerate it
- ➔ Start at lower doses and slowly increase dose as tolerated
- ➔ Maintain necessary oral medications for extra-pyramidal symptoms (EPS)
- ➔ Attempt to taper anti-EPS medications after starting the LAI
- ➔ Consider checking plasma levels (when indicated) to make sure they are within therapeutic range
- ➔ [More clinical tips from the American Association of Community Psychiatrists \(AACCP\)](#)

### Addressing Patient Barriers

Patients with behavioral or mental health conditions face additional barriers to self-managing their conditions. Below are some considerations to keep in mind when dealing with this patient population.

- ➔ Discuss treatment plan with patient's family members or others involved in their care
- ➔ Ensure that the patient has a plan on how they will get to the office for their injections
  - » Offering transportation or reminder cards and involving family in the care can help prevent missed appointments
- ➔ Avoid use of stigmatizing language
- ➔ Educate patients to prevent a negative perception of long-acting medications
- ➔ Employ a trauma-informed approach where you engage the patient in conversations and highlight that they are able to express their choices and preferences
- ➔ **[Read the informative guide to long-acting medications issued by the National Council for Behavioral Health.](#)**

### Patient Considerations

While there are many advantages to using LAIs, there are some factors to consider that may be unfavorable to some patients:

- ➔ Slow dose titration and longer time to achieve steady state levels
- ➔ Delayed relief of distressing or severe psychiatric side effects
- ➔ Pain at injection site, leakage into surrounding tissue, and potential for irritation and lesions
- ➔ Burden of needing frequent, reliable travel to outpatient clinics to receive injections
- ➔ Possible perception of stigma

For reference, please read **[Long-Acting Injectable Antipsychotics: A Practical Guide for Prescribers.](#)**

### Clinical Prior Authorization

Starting on January 1, 2020, the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services instituted a single statewide **[Preferred Drug List \(PDL\)](#)**. All LAI antipsychotics are preferred on the PDL, except for the newly released *Invega Hafyera*.

**Please Note:** *Invega Hafyera* is non-preferred until it is reviewed by the P&T Committee in September 2022.

- ➔ **[Fee-for-Service Pharmacy Prior Authorization General Requirements and Procedures \(contains details about when a clinical prior authorization is necessary\)](#)**

## FDA-Approved LAI Medications and Corresponding Care Coordination with Pharmaceutical Companies

Certain pharmaceutical companies offer care coordination services.

<i>Current FDA-Approved LAI Medications</i>	<i>Care Coordination with Pharmaceutical Companies</i>	<i>Contact Number</i>
Aristada Initio Aristada ER	<a href="#"><u>Aristada Patient Assistance</u></a>	1-866-274-7823
Abilify Maintena	<a href="#"><u>Abilify Maintena Patient Assistance</u></a>	1-855-242-7787
Invega Sustenna	<a href="#"><u>Invega Sustenna Patient Assistance</u></a>	1-800-526-7736
Risperdal Consta	<a href="#"><u>Risperdal Consta Patient Assistance</u></a>	1-800-526-7736
Risperidone Perseris	<a href="#"><u>Risperidone Perseris Patient Assistance</u></a>	1-804-594-0836
Zyprexa Relprevv	<a href="#"><u>Zyprexa Relprevv Patient Assistance</u></a>	1-800-545-6962
Invega Trinza	<a href="#"><u>Invega Trinza Patient Assistance</u></a>	1-800-526-7736
Haldol Decanoate	<a href="#"><u>Haldol Decanoate Patient Assistance</u></a>	1-800-526-7736
Fluphenazine Decanoate	N/A	N/A
Invega Hafyera*	<a href="#"><u>Invega Hafyera Patient Assistance</u></a>	1-800-526-7736

*\*Invega Hafyera is non-preferred until it is reviewed by the P&T Committee in September 2022.*

For additional information, see the [LAI Antipsychotics PDL Crosswalk](#).

**Long-Acting Injectable Dosing Information**

<i>Generation</i>	<i>Drug</i>	<i>Dosing Interval</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<b>First Generation</b>	Haldol Decanoate	Every 3-4 weeks	Initiation at 10-20 times daily oral dose
	Fluphenazine Decanoate	Every 2-4 weeks	
<b>Second Generation</b>	Abilify Maintena	Every 4 weeks	Requires 2 weeks of overlap with oral aripiprazole
	Aristada	Every 4, 6, or 8 weeks	Requires 3 weeks of overlap with oral aripiprazole
	Zyprexa Relprevv	Every 2-4 weeks	Requires monitoring post injection for 3 hours
	Invega Sustenna	Every 4 weeks	Oral supplementation not necessary
	Invega Trinza	Every 12 weeks (3 months)	Can transition patients to this after treatment with Invega Sustenna
	Invega Hafyera	Every 6 months	Newly approved agent
	Risperdal Consta	Every 2 weeks	Requires 3 weeks of overlap with oral risperidone
Risperdal Perseris	Every 4 weeks	No oral dose required to initiate	

For reference, please see the full [\*Dosing and Administration of LAIs for Schizophrenia in Adults\*](#).

**Pharmacies that provide LAI Services**

LAIs are considered specialty medications because they require more safety monitoring and are higher cost medications. The table below has information about specialty pharmacies in the area that dispense and/or administer LAIs. Each pharmacy has different services available, but the pharmacies that offer the most services are [Sunray Specialty Pharmacy](#), select [ACME pharmacies](#), and [Bank’s Apothecary](#).

<i>Specialty Pharmacy</i>	<i>Contact</i>	<i>Dispenses LAIs</i>	<i>Delivers to Provider Offices</i>	<i>Administers Onsite</i>
Sunray ( <i>West Philadelphia</i> ) 152 S 52nd St, Suite 201 Philadelphia, PA 19139	P: 215-471-4000 F: 215-471-4001	✓	✓	✓
CVS Specialty ( <i>Center City</i> ) 1117 Walnut Street Philadelphia, PA 19107	P: 215-627-2143 F: 215-627-8943	✓	✓	
Walgreens Specialty – Community Pharmacy ( <i>Center City</i> ) 1227 Locust Street Philadelphia, PA 19107	P: 215-772-2772 F: 215-772-2798	✓	✓	
Bank’s Apothecary 3800 Horizon Blvd #103 Trevose, PA 19053	P: 800-927-6703 F: 215-357-2129	✓	✓	✓
Jefferson Specialty Pharmacy 3500 Horizon Drive King of Prussia, PA 19406	P: 844-469-7542 F: 215-955-8182	✓	✓	
Elwyn Pharmacy 194 S New Middletown Road Media, PA 19063	P: 610-566-2226 F: 601-566-0521	✓		

**Sunray Specialty Pharmacy**

Sunray Specialty Pharmacy coordinates with other independent pharmacies within their network. The specialty store can dispense LAIs and deliver them to the pharmacy where the pharmacist will administer the injectable to the patient. For patients that might need it, Sunray also offers car share services to get the patient to and from their preferred pharmacy location. In addition to the Specialty location in West Philadelphia, the following pharmacies are able to administer LAIs:

**Dake's Drug Store** (*West Philadelphia*)  
201 City Ave, Merion Station, PA 19066  
610-667-1316

**Sunray Drugs – C Street** (*Northeast Philadelphia*)  
424 E Allegheny Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19134  
215-423-8500

**Sunray Drugs – Progress Plaza** (*North Philadelphia*)  
1501 N Broad St, Philadelphia, PA 19122  
215-235-4000

**Sunray Drugs – K&A** (*Northeast Philadelphia*)  
825 E Allegheny Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19134  
215-425-7700

**Friendly Pharmacy** (*Northeast Philadelphia*)  
2258 N Front St, Philadelphia, PA 19133  
215-425-5230

**Allegheny Apothecary** (*Northeast Philadelphia*)  
2244 E Allegheny Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19134  
215-203-0194

**Nice Pharmacy** (*Northeast Philadelphia*)  
110 E Allegheny Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19134  
215-425-0100

**Port Richmond Pharmacy**  
(*Northeast Philadelphia*)  
2512 E Clearfield St, Philadelphia, PA 19134  
215-426-5099

### ***ACME Pharmacies***

ACME pharmacies can also administer LAIs intramuscularly or subcutaneously at any of their pharmacy locations. The prescriber would send a prescription to one of the ACME stores with instructions on either administering the injectable to the patient at the pharmacy or to be delivered to the medical office. The ACME pharmacy locations in the Philadelphia area are:

Northwest Philadelphia  
7010 Germantown Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19119  
215-247-4995

Northeast Philadelphia  
8200 Roosevelt Blvd, Philadelphia, PA 19152  
215-338-4967

Northeast Philadelphia  
920 Red Lion Rd, Philadelphia, PA 19115  
215- 676-6279

Northeast Philadelphia  
6601 Roosevelt Blvd, Philadelphia, PA 19149  
215-338-6601

Northeast Philadelphia  
180 West Girard Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19123  
215-574-1221

Northwest Philadelphia  
5927-59 Ridge Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19128  
215-487-3419

Northeast Philadelphia  
2101-41 Cottman Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19149  
215-728-1015

Northwest Philadelphia  
7700 Crittenden St, Philadelphia, PA 19118  
215-248-6495

South Philadelphia  
1400 E Passyunk Ave, Philadelphia PA 19147  
215-551-3321

Southwest Philadelphia  
1901 Johnston St, Philadelphia, PA 19145  
215-336-5553

Northeast Philadelphia  
6640 Oxford Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19111  
215-725-9319

***If you are a specialty, independent, or chain pharmacy within the Philadelphia area that offers LAI services and are not listed above, please contact our pharmacy team at [CBH.PharmacyInitiatives@phila.gov](mailto:CBH.PharmacyInitiatives@phila.gov).***