

Despite being available for over 50 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 enhancing medication adherence.

- ➔ [American Psychiatric Association \(APA\) Practice Guideline for the Treatment of Patients with Schizophrenia \(2020\)](#)

LAIs are primarily used 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 but may prefer using an injectable medication so that they do not have the burden of taking daily medications. Below are some tips to keep in mind when considering initiating treatment with or transitioning a patient to an LAI.

- ➔ Transition with oral medications to make sure the patient can tolerate it
- ➔ Start at lower doses and slowly increase the dose as tolerated
- ➔ Maintain necessary oral medications for extrapyramidal symptoms (EPS)
- ➔ Attempt to taper anti-EPS medications after starting the LAI
- ➔ Consider checking plasma levels (when indicated) to make sure they are within the therapeutic range

### Addressing Patient Barriers

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

- ➔ Discuss treatment plans with the patient's family members or others involved in their care
- ➔ Ensure that the patient has a plan for how they will get to the office or pharmacy for their injections
  - » Offering transportation or reminder cards and involving family in the care can help prevent missed appointments.
  - » The Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP) is a shared ride transportation service available to people receiving Medical Assistance and is paid for by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS). [Additional information on MATP can be found here.](#)
- ➔ 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

Additional tips can be found in the [National Council for Mental Wellbeing Guide to Long-acting Medications](#).

## Patient Considerations

While there are many advantages to using LAIs, there are some factors to consider that may be unfavorable for 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/pharmacies to receive injections
- ➔ Possible perception of stigma

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

## Transitions of Care

LAIs may be appropriate for patients who are transitioning between settings, such as patients being discharged from an inpatient stay, where there may be concerns for nonadherence.

If your inpatient practice does not have a pharmacy that can dispense LAIs, the following LAIs have a hospital inpatient free trial program:

- ➔ [Abilify Maintena®](#) | 1-888-596-2745
- ➔ [Aristada®](#) | 1-844-341-6431
- ➔ [Invega Sustenna®](#) | 1-800-240-5746
- ➔ [Uzedly®](#) | 1-833-988-2531

There are concerns that patients who are discharged with an LAI may not follow up with an outpatient provider. However, there is research to suggest that patients initiated on an LAI during their inpatient stay are more likely to have an outpatient follow-up after discharge compared to their peers initiated on an oral antipsychotic.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, providing an LAI prescription with refills may be beneficial for patients who have difficulty getting follow-up care.

## Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center

The [Merakey Mental Health Walk-In Clinic](#) is currently Philadelphia's only adult behavioral health urgent care center, which provides same day mental health and/or substance use treatment for adults ages 18 years and older who can be safely maintained in the community.

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<sup>1</sup> Patel C, Pilon D, Morrison L, Holiday C, Lafeuille MH, Lefebvre P, Benson C. Continuity of care among patients newly initiated on second-generation oral or long-acting injectable antipsychotics during a schizophrenia-related inpatient stay. *Curr Med Res Opin.* 2023 Aug;39(8):1157-1166.

For members on an LAI who currently do not have an outpatient provider, the Merakey Mental Health Walk-In Clinic may provide transitory support for individuals needing their injection while also helping to link and refer them to other treatment services that can provide more long-term care.

Location	Contact	Hours
<a href="#"><u>Merakey Mental Health Walk-In Clinic</u></a> 3125 N Broad Street Philadelphia, PA 19132	267-219-8801 <a href="mailto:WalkinPhilly@merakey.org"><u>WalkinPhilly@merakey.org</u></a>	Open Daily: 11am – 6pm  Closed: New Year's Day, MLK Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day









## Care Coordination with Pharmaceutical Companies
















Certain pharmaceutical companies offer care coordination services.

Pharmaceutical Company Care Coordination	Contact Number
<a href="#"><u>Abilify Maintena® Patient Assistance</u></a>	1-855-727-6274
<a href="#"><u>Abilify Asimtufii® Patient Assistance</u></a>	1-855-727-6274
<a href="#"><u>Aristada® Patient Assistance</u></a>	1-866-274-7823
<a href="#"><u>Invega Sustenna® Patient Assistance</u></a>	1-877-227-3728
<a href="#"><u>Invega Trinza® Patient Assistance</u></a>	1-877-227-3728
<a href="#"><u>Invega Hafvera® Patient Assistance</u></a>	1-877-227-3728
<a href="#"><u>Risperdal Consta® Patient Assistance</u></a>	1-877-227-3728
<a href="#"><u>Uzedy® Patient Assistance</u></a>	1-800-887-8100

## Pharmacies that Provide LAI Services

The table below has information about pharmacies in the area that offer LAI services, such as dispensing and/or administration. Each pharmacy has different services available, but Altruix – Trevoze Specialty Pharmacy, Shop and Carry Pharmacy, Sunray Specialty Pharmacy, and select ACME pharmacies offer the most services.

Pharmacy	Contact	Dispenses LAIs	Delivers to Provider Offices	Administers Onsite
<a href="#"><u>ACME Pharmacies</u></a> Multiple locations (see information below)	See information below			
<a href="#"><u>Altruix – Trevoze Specialty Pharmacy</u></a> 3800 Horizon Blvd Suite #103 Trevoze, PA 19053	P: 800-927-6703 F: 215-357-2129			
<a href="#"><u>CVS Specialty</u></a> (Center City) 1117 Walnut St Philadelphia, PA 19107	P: 215-627-2143 F: 215-627-8943			

Pharmacy	Contact	Dispenses LAIs	Delivers to Provider Offices	Administers Onsite
<b>Elwyn Pharmacy</b> 194 S New Middletown Rd Media, PA 19063	P: 610-566-2226 F: 610-566-0521			
<b>Genoa Healthcare</b> (North Philadelphia; located within COMHAR) 2600 N American St Philadelphia, PA 19133	P: 215-426-1007 F: 215-426-2667			
<b>Genoa Healthcare</b> (West Phila; located within Community Council Health Systems) 4900 Wyalusing Ave Philadelphia, PA 19131	P: 215-764-6519 F: 267-744-4459			
<b>Jefferson Specialty Pharmacy</b> 3500 Horizon Dr King of Prussia, PA 19406	P: 844-469-7542 F: 215-955-8182			
<b>Shop and Carry Pharmacy</b> (North Philadelphia) 1301 Lindley Ave Philadelphia, PA 19141	P: 267-297-5030 F: 267-297-5783			
<b>Sunray Specialty Pharmacy</b> (West Philadelphia) 152 S 52nd St, Suite 201 Philadelphia, PA 19139	P: 215-471-4000 F: 215-471-4001			
<b>Walgreens Specialty – Community Pharmacy</b> (Center City) 1227 Locust Street Philadelphia, PA 19107	P: 215-772-2772 F: 215-772-2798			

### ACME Pharmacies

ACME pharmacies can administer LAIs at any of their pharmacy locations. The physician would send a prescription to one of the ACME stores with instructions on either administering the medication to the patient at the pharmacy or to be delivered to the medical office. If the medication is to be administered at the pharmacy, the pharmacy will contact the patient to schedule an appointment. 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

\* These ACME locations have a private consultation room. Due to the site of administration and/or manufacturer requirements, Abilify Asintufii®, Invega Hafyera®, and most doses of Aristada® must be administered in an ACME location with a consultation room.

**Sunray Specialty Pharmacy**

Sunray Specialty Pharmacy coordinates with other independent pharmacies within its 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 who may 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 can administer LAIs:

**Holmesburg Pharmacy (Northeast Philadelphia)**

8039 Frankford Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19136  
215-332-2400

**Nice Pharmacy (Northeast Philadelphia)**

110 E Allegheny Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19134  
215-425-0100

**Port Richmond Pharmacy (Northeast Philadelphia)**

2636 E Allegheny Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19134  
215-426-5099

**Sunray Drugs – K&A (Northeast Philadelphia)**

825 E Allegheny Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19134  
215-425-7700

**Sunray Drugs – Progress Plaza (North Philadelphia)**

1501 N Broad St, Philadelphia, PA 19122  
215-235-4000

**FDA-Approved LAI Medications****First Generation**

Drug	Dosing	PDL Status (updated 1/5/26)	Comments
Fluphenazine decanoate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ Every 2-4 weeks</li> <li>➔ Intramuscular or subcutaneous</li> </ul>	Preferred	Dosing interval based on patient response
Haldol® decanoate (haloperidol decanoate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ Every 4 weeks</li> <li>➔ Intramuscular</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ Preferred: generic haloperidol decanoate ampule or vial</li> <li>➔ Non-preferred: brand name Haldol® decanoate ampule</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ Initiate at 10-20 times daily oral dose</li> <li>➔ If initial dose conversion is greater than 100mg, the dose should be split into two injections separated by 3–7 days</li> </ul>

*Second Generation*

Drug	Dosing	PDL Status (updated 7/7/25)	Comments
<b>Abilify Maintena®</b> (aripiprazole monohydrate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ Every 4 weeks</li> <li>➔ Intramuscular</li> </ul>	Preferred	Initiate with two injections of Abilify Maintena® 400mg and one dose of oral aripiprazole 20mg on the first day of treatment or with two weeks of overlap with an oral antipsychotic
<b>Abilify Asimtufii®</b> (aripiprazole monohydrate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ Every 8 weeks</li> <li>➔ Intramuscular</li> </ul>	Preferred	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ Initiate with one injection of Abilify Asimtufii® 960mg, one injection of Abilify Maintena® 400mg, and one dose of oral aripiprazole 20mg on the first day of treatment or with two weeks of overlap with an oral antipsychotic.</li> <li>➔ Patients can also be transitioned from Abilify Maintena®</li> </ul>
<b>Aristada Initio®</b> (aripiprazole lauroxil)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ N/A – single dose to initiate or re-initiate Aristada®</li> <li>➔ Intramuscular</li> </ul>	Preferred	Initiate first Aristada® injection with one injection of Aristada Initio® 675mg and one dose of oral aripiprazole 30mg or with three weeks of oral aripiprazole overlap
<b>Aristada®</b> (aripiprazole lauroxil)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ Every 4, 6, or 8 weeks</li> <li>➔ Intramuscular</li> </ul>	Preferred	
<b>Erzofri®</b> (paliperidone palmitate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ Every 4 weeks</li> <li>➔ Intramuscular</li> </ul>	Non-preferred	Initiation dose is Erzofri® 351mg
<b>Invega Sustenna®</b> (paliperidone palmitate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ Every 4 weeks</li> <li>➔ Intramuscular</li> </ul>	Preferred	Initiate with Invega Sustenna® 234mg followed by Invega Sustenna® 156mg one week later
<b>Invega Trinza®</b> (paliperidone palmitate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ Every 3 months</li> <li>➔ Intramuscular</li> </ul>	Preferred	Establish adequate treatment with Invega Sustenna® for at least four months prior to transitioning
<b>Invega Hafyera®</b> (paliperidone palmitate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ Every 6 months</li> <li>➔ Intramuscular</li> </ul>	Preferred	Establish adequate treatment with Invega Sustenna® for at least four months or Invega Trinza® for at least one three-month cycle before transitioning
<b>Perseris®</b> (risperidone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ Every 4 weeks</li> <li>➔ Subcutaneous</li> </ul>	Preferred	Oral supplementation not required
<b>Risperdal Consta®</b> (risperidone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ Every 2 weeks</li> <li>➔ Intramuscular</li> </ul>	Preferred (brand name Risperdal Consta® and generic)	Requires three weeks of overlap with an oral antipsychotic
Risperidone for Extended-Release Injectable Suspension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ Every 2 weeks</li> <li>➔ Intramuscular</li> </ul>	Not Listed	Requires one week of overlap with oral risperidone
<b>Rykindo®</b> (risperidone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ Every 2 weeks</li> <li>➔ Intramuscular</li> </ul>	Not Listed	Requires one week of overlap with oral risperidone

Drug	Dosing	PDL Status (updated 7/7/25)	Comments
<u>Uzedo</u> ® (risperidone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ Every 4 or 8 weeks</li> <li>➔ Subcutaneous</li> </ul>	Preferred	Switch from oral risperidone
<u>Zyprexa Relprevv</u> ® (olanzapine)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ Every 2 or 4 weeks</li> <li>➔ Intramuscular</li> </ul>	Non-preferred	Requires monitoring for at least three hours post-injection

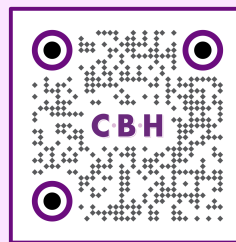
- ➔ [PA DHS Medical Assistance Statewide Preferred Drug List \(PDL\)](#)
- ➔ [PA DHS Fee-for-Service Pharmacy Prior Authorization General Requirements and Procedures](#) (contains details about when a clinical prior authorization is necessary)



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## Pharmacy Education and Resources for Members

*Includes medication wallet card, guides, tip sheets, and other valuable resources for members*



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## Pharmacy Education and Resources for Providers

*Includes the latest pharmaceutical information for CBH providers*

If you are a 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).