

Antipsychotics are medications that can help reduce the symptoms of conditions like schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

There are long-acting injectable (LAI) forms of these medications that slowly release the medication over a longer period. Many people find LAIs helpful if they do not want to remember to take a medication every day. LAI antipsychotics can help you get a steady level of medication and reduce the risk of hospitalizations. Some examples of LAI antipsychotics include Abilify Maintena® (aripiprazole), Invega Sustenna® (paliperidone), and Perseris® (risperidone).

What can I expect with LAI antipsychotics?

- ➔ LAI antipsychotics are given every 2 to 24 weeks, depending on the specific LAI. You may need to start with a shorter-acting medication before you can transition to a longer-acting one.
- ➔ LAI antipsychotics must be given by a healthcare professional, such as your psychiatrist or pharmacist. Depending on the LAI, the medication may be given in your abdomen, arm, or buttocks.
- ➔ You may see symptoms, such as hallucinations and disorganized thinking, start to get better after two weeks, but it may take 6 to 8 weeks to see the full effects.
- ➔ People on LAI antipsychotics may experience pain at the injection site, drowsiness, restlessness, and weight changes.
 - » Abnormal muscle movements are a rare but possible side effect of antipsychotics. Please contact your physician immediately if these occur.
 - » You will also need regular physicals and lab work done to ensure the medication is safe and effective. The table below shows what is being measured and how often, and it can help you keep track of the physicals/lab work you need.

	At the Start	4 Weeks	8 Weeks	3 Months	4 Months	Every Year	Every 5 Years
Medical History	✓					✓	
Weight/BMI	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Waist Size	✓					✓	
Blood Pressure	✓			✓		✓	
Blood Sugar	✓			✓		✓	
Cholesterol	✓			✓			✓

- ➔ You must receive your injection on time. The symptoms of your condition may worsen if you do not receive your injection promptly. You may also have to restart your LAI antipsychotic if it has been too long since your last injection.

How can I remember to get my injection?

- ➔ After an injection, set up an appointment for your next injection as soon as possible. Ask if you can get an appointment card from your physician or pharmacist.

- ➔ Set up reminders on your phone or calendar for when you are due for your next injection.
- ➔ Let family members, caregivers, and other supports, like your case manager, know that you are on an LAI and how they can support you, such as by giving you reminders for your injection or physicals/lab appointments.
- ➔ Some pharmacies may be able to administer the injection. They may also offer other services, like appointment reminders and ride shares to and from the pharmacy for injections. Please see the Appendix starting on page 3 for local pharmacies that offer LAI services.
- ➔ If you received an LAI antipsychotic during a hospital stay, make sure to bring your discharge paperwork to your next outpatient follow-up appointment.

Does my insurance cover LAI antipsychotics?

Pennsylvania Medicaid covers most LAI antipsychotics. Sometimes, there are requirements for the medication that your physician has to submit paperwork for to the insurance company – this is called a prior authorization.

Pennsylvania Medicaid recipients generally do not have copays for antipsychotic medications. Talk to your physician or pharmacist if you need additional support accessing your medication.

How can I learn more about my LAI antipsychotic and treatment?

Community Behavioral Health (CBH) encourages physicians to include you in decisions regarding your LAI antipsychotic medication. CBH encourages you to understand why you are taking medication and ensure you are comfortable receiving it.

Before your next appointment, think about some of these questions and let your physician know about any concerns that you may have:

- ➔ *How have I been feeling since my last injection?*
- ➔ *Am I happy with the way my current medication manages my symptoms?*
- ➔ *Do I have any new symptoms?*
- ➔ *Is there something about my current medication that isn't working well for my life?*
- ➔ *Do I feel like my current treatment manages my symptoms long enough for me to focus on my goals?*
- ➔ *What medication risks and side effects am I most concerned about?*

Additional Information and Resources

Pharmacies that Provide LAI Services

The table below has information about pharmacies that offer LAI services, such as dispensing and 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 Physician Offices	Administers Onsite
ACME Pharmacies Multiple locations (see information below)	See information below	✓	✓	✓
Altruix – Trevoze Specialty Pharmacy 3800 Horizon Blvd Suite #103 Trevoze, PA 19053	P: 800-927-6703 F: 215-357-2129	✓	✓	✓
CVS Specialty (Center City) 1117 Walnut St Philadelphia, PA 19107	P: 215-627-2143 F: 215-627-8943	✓	✓	
Elwyn Pharmacy 194 S New Middletown Rd Media, PA 19063	P: 610-566-2226 F: 610-566-0521	✓		
Jefferson Specialty Pharmacy 3500 Horizon Dr King of Prussia, PA 19406	P: 844-469-7542 F: 215-955-8182	✓	✓	
Shop and Carry Pharmacy (North Philadelphia) 1301 Lindley Ave Philadelphia, PA 19141	P: 267-297-5030 F: 267-297-5783	✓	✓	✓
Sunray Specialty Pharmacy (West Philadelphia) 152 S 52nd St, Suite 201 Philadelphia, PA 19139	P: 215-471-4000 F: 215-471-4001	✓	✓	✓
Walgreens Specialty – Community Pharmacy (Center City) 1227 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107	P: 215-772-2772 F: 215-772-2798	✓	✓	

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. Sunray also offers car share services for patients who may need it to get them to and from their preferred pharmacy location. In addition to the specialty location in West Philadelphia, the following pharmacies can administer LAIs:

Dake's Drug Store (West Philadelphia)
201 City Ave, Merion, 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

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 pharmacy location. The provider can send a prescription to one of the ACME locations with instructions on administering the injectable to the patient at the pharmacy or delivering it to the medical office. If the injection is to be administered at the pharmacy, the pharmacy will contact the patient to schedule an appointment. The provider is notified of any missed/rescheduled appointments. The provider is also sent a notification after the patient receives their injection. 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 manufacturer requirements, Abilify Asimtufigi, Invega Hafyera, and most doses of Aristada must be administered in an ACME location with a consultation room.*

[CBH Website: Pharmacy Education and Resources for Members](#)

Includes medication guides, tip sheets, and other valuable tools and resources to get informed about and properly use medications you may be prescribed

[National Alliance on Mental Illness \(NAMI\) Mental Health Medication Information](#)

For questions or support, please contact cbh.pharmacyinitatives@phila.gov.