

Long-Acting Antipsychotic Medicines* (LAAMs)



Why LAAMs?

Long-acting antipsychotic medications (LAAMs) offered through the intramuscular or subcutaneous injection route provide slow release of antipsychotic medications to the bloodstream. LAAMs can last anywhere from 2 weeks to 6 months with just one dose.

Keys to Using LAAMs

- ✓ Understand your personal clinical bias.
- ✓ Planning administration (who gives injection, how to store the medication, billing for the injection and administration).
- ✓ Offer as an option to all, especially the young adult population.
- ✓ Identify members to talk with about using LAAMs.
- ✓ Obtain training and resource information.
 - LAAM educational sessions ([Improving Outcomes in Psychotic Disorders - LAAMs evidence, indications, practical applications](#))
 - SMI Advisor (CME credit)
 - [Long-Acting Injectable Center of Excellence](#)
 - [Strategies for Success: Using Long-Acting Injectable Medications](#)
 - [Clinician's Guide to Preparing and Administering Long-Acting Injectable Antipsychotics](#)

What are the benefits of LAAMs?

- Helps individuals stay on track with a medication plan.
- Steady release of the medication may reduce side effects.
- Improves the quality of life for those taking the injection.
- Reduces the risk of relapse.
- Reduced hospitalizations.
- Reduces all-cause mortality.

Barriers to LAAM Use

- Lack of knowledge and experience.
- Limited infrastructure to administer injections.
- Overcoming perceived patient fears of injections.
- Historical perception of stigma associated with LAAMs.
- Lack of insurance coverage. (Note: while NC Medicaid covers all LAAMs, even the uninsured can access most of the LAAMs via patient assistance programs.)

* The term LAAM is preferred to LAI (long acting injectable) in order to focus on the long-acting aspect of these medications and not on the injection aspect. The injection aspect is addressed after the potential benefits of long-acting medicine are relayed to the patient. This language can help patients make better informed decisions about this treatment option.

The information presented by Alliance Health above is for informational purposes only. It is not intended for use in lieu of state guidelines or service definitions nor is it to be used to guide individualized treatment. Please refer to your Medicaid contract for additional details.