

Improving Access to Long-Acting Injectable Psychotropic Medications

Feedback from members, primary prescribers and Optum Care Advocates all point to an opportunity for improving access to long-acting medications. Specifically, difficulty associated with access, or inability to obtain or administer, Long-Acting Injectable (LAI) Psychotropic Medications was identified as a barrier to treatment and recovery planning for members.

It is important to note that, in the treatment of behavioral health conditions, there are two classes of LAI medications which may be prescribed to two different identified diagnostic categories. The first group is the long-acting antipsychotic agents which are used to treat schizophrenia and related psychoses.

Researchers have expanded this diagnostic group and associated use of LAIs to include severe mood disorders such as bipolar disorder with psychotic features. These medications include: Haldol Decanoate, Prolixin Decanoate, Risperdal Consta, Invega Sustenna, and Zyprexa Relprevv. The other agents are aimed at treating alcohol and opiate dependence and the medication used is Naltrexone, which is available in a long-acting injectable formulation, Vivitrol.

Please review the LAI Studies document posted to the [LAI Administration](#) page on providerexpress.com (use the LAI Administration “Quick Links”). It covers multiple studies and has been annotated. The scientific literature is divided into two sections: one for the antipsychotic medications and one for the addictive disorders. In addition you will find a Quick Reference Guide for obtaining LAIs through BriovaRx under the same link.

Currently, this resource is available to UnitedHealthcare members. We are launching this project in order to identify an efficient method for obtaining LAIs for members choosing this treatment option. Medication decisions are made jointly by the member and prescriber based on a full evaluation that includes identification of the member’s strengths and their medical and social needs.

Optum Care Advocates participate by linking the members to resources that support their personal goals and enhance recovery.

To learn more, use the LAI Administration Quick Link to access the [LAI Administration](#) page on providerexpress.com.