

For adults with schizophrenia

# How to talk with patients about long-acting injectables (LAIs)

**Transitioning to an LAI can offer important benefits for your adult patients with schizophrenia, providing a consistent, reliable option for receiving medication. By discussing the opportunity for less frequent dosing, effectiveness in reducing symptoms, and safety and side effects, you can help patients understand how LAIs can help improve their overall treatment experience.<sup>1</sup>**



Actor Portrayal



**Partner with your patients to build trust and help them make meaningful treatment decisions.**

Learn how on the next page.

# In your conversations, always remember:



**Start the discussion early**  
after a diagnosis of schizophrenia<sup>1</sup>



**Destigmatize LAIs, emphasizing they are not a last resort but a proactive choice for the opportunity for less frequent dosing and the benefits of long-acting treatment<sup>2</sup>**



**Include patients in the decision process** using shared decision-making and motivational interviewing<sup>1</sup>



**Convey a clear, optimistic message** to build trust and help patients feel comfortable about LAIs<sup>1</sup>



Actor Portrayal



**Involve families and caregivers** in the treatment process<sup>1</sup>

# Address concerns with empathy

It's essential to engage with your patients empathetically, taking time to listen to their concerns, validate their feelings, and provide reassurance about the benefits of LAIs and the care they will receive. Use this dialogue to guide your responses to some common patient concerns.

## "I'M AFRAID OF NEEDLES"

"Tell me about your previous experiences with needles."

Pause to talk through any negative experiences and reassure the patient.

"If you're feeling unsure about using needles, I can walk you through the injection process so you know what to expect. If you're concerned about the injection site, it's good to know that it can be given in different areas that are easy to access and don't require removing much clothing. It's a quick process and is designed to be as comfortable as possible."<sup>3</sup>

## "I'M WORRIED I'LL GAIN WEIGHT"

"It's understandable to be concerned about weight gain when starting a new medication. Weight gain is a common side effect of atypical antipsychotic use, so we'll work together to continue to monitor your weight and general health.<sup>2</sup>

The goal is to find a treatment plan that works best for you overall."

## "GETTING TO APPOINTMENTS SEEMS CHALLENGING"

"Getting to your appointments may feel challenging at first, but remember that these visits are an important part of staying on track, and we're here to support you. To make it easier, try to schedule your appointments in advance and at times that fit best with your day. You can set reminders on your phone or calendar so you don't forget. If transportation is a concern, let us know—we can help suggest options. Many people find that once they establish a regular schedule, the process becomes more manageable."

## "I'M CONCERNED ABOUT THE AMOUNT OF MEDICINE LAIs RELEASE INTO THE BODY"

"It's completely reasonable to have concerns about how much medication is released into your body with an LAI. However, LAIs are specifically designed to release the medication slowly and steadily over time, not all at once."<sup>4</sup>

# Always end your conversation with reassurance



"If you ever have any other concerns while on treatment, don't hesitate to come talk to us—we're here to ensure your treatment is working well for you."

## Scan for support



Data Rates May Apply

to talk through other  
patient concerns

**References:** 1. National Council for Mental Wellbeing. Guide to long-acting medications for clinicians and organizations. Updated February 2, 2022. Accessed November 6, 2024. <https://www.thenationalcouncil.org/topics/long-acting-medications/> 2. Correll CU, Citrome L, Haddad P, et al. The use of long-acting injectable antipsychotics in schizophrenia: evaluating the evidence. *J Clin Psychiatry*. 2016;77(suppl 3):1-24. 3. Citrome L. Long-acting injectable antipsychotics: what, when, and how. *CNS Spectrums*. 2021;26(2):118-129. 4. Correll CU, Kim E, Sliwa JK, et al. Pharmacokinetic characteristics of long-acting injectable antipsychotics for schizophrenia: an overview. *CNS Drugs*. 2021;35(1):39-59.