

Leqembi® (Lecanemab-Irmb)

Policy Number: 2023D00125A
Effective Date: November 1, 2023

[Instructions for Use](#)

Table of Contents	Page
Coverage Rationale	1
Applicable Codes	1
Background	1
Clinical Evidence	5
U.S. Food and Drug Administration	7
References	7
Policy History/Revision Information	11
Instructions for Use	11

Related Community Plan Policy

- [Monoclonal Antibodies Directed Against Amyloid for the Treatment of Alzheimer's Disease](#)

Coverage Rationale

Leqembi (lecanemab-irmb) may be covered for the treatment of Alzheimer’s disease (AD) in patients who meet all of the following criteria:

- For **initial therapy**, all of the following:
 - Diagnosis of **one** of the following based on National Institute on Aging and the Alzheimer’s Association (NIA-AA) criteria^{22,55}:
 - Mild cognitive impairment (MCI) due to Alzheimer's disease; **or**
 - Probable Alzheimer's disease dementia
 - and**
 - Submission of medical records (e.g., chart notes, laboratory values) documenting **all** of the following^{53,56}:
 - Global Clinical Dementia Rating (CDR) score of 0.5 or 1.0; **and**
 - CDR Memory Box score of 0.5 or greater; **and**
 - **One** of the following:
 - Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE) score of 22 or greater
 - Saint Louis University Mental Status (SLUMS) score of 17 or greater
 - Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA) score of 17 or greater
 - and**
 - Submission of medical records (e.g., chart notes, laboratory values) documenting the presence of beta-amyloid protein deposition, as evidenced by **one** of the following:
 - Positive amyloid positron emission tomography (PET) scan; **or**
 - **Both** of the following:
 - Attestation that the patient does not have access to amyloid PET scanning; **and**
 - Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) biomarker testing documents abnormalities suggestive of beta-amyloid accumulation in the brain (e.g., Aβ42: 40 ratio, p-tau/Aβ42)
 - and**
 - Other differential diagnoses [e.g., dementia with Lewy bodies (DLB), frontotemporal dementia (FTD), vascular dementia, pseudodementia due to mood disorder, vitamin B12 deficiency, encephalopathy, etc.] have been ruled out; **and**
 - **One** of the following:
 - Patient is not currently taking an anticoagulant (e.g., warfarin, dabigatran); **or**

- **Both** of the following^{53,55,56}:
 - Patient is currently taking an anticoagulant (e.g., warfarin, dabigatran); **and**
 - Counseling has been provided that the combined use of Leqembi with anti-coagulant drugs may increase the risk of cerebral macrohemorrhage and prescriber attests that the patient has shared in decision-making to initiate Leqembi therapy
- and**
- Patient has no history of intracerebral hemorrhage [e.g., transient ischemic attack (TIA), stroke] within the previous year prior to initiating treatment; **and**
- Counseling has been provided on the risk of amyloid-related imaging abnormalities (ARIA-E and ARIA-H) and patient is aware to monitor for headache, dizziness, visual disturbances, nausea, and vomiting; **and**
- **All** of the following:
 - Counseling has been provided on how testing for ApoE ε 4 status informs the risk of developing ARIA when deciding to initiate treatment with Leqembi; **and**
 - Testing for ApoE ε 4 status has been offered to the patient and prescriber attests that the patient has shared in decision-making to initiate Leqembi therapy
- and**
- A baseline brain magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) has been completed within 12 months prior to initiating treatment; **and**
- Not used in combination with other Aβ monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) for Alzheimer's Disease (e.g., Aduhelm); **and**
- Prescribed by a neurologist, geriatric psychiatrist, or geriatrician who specializes in treating dementia; **and**
- Prescriber attests that the prescriber's site is currently registered or will seek registration with the Alzheimer's Network for Treatment and Diagnostics (ALZ-NET) or other comparable patient registry that collects information on treatments for Alzheimer's disease, including Leqembi; **and**
- Leqembi dosing is in accordance with the United States Food and Drug Administration approved labeling; **and**
- Initial authorization will be for no more than 6 months
- For **continuation of therapy**, **all** of the following:
 - Patient continues to have one of following diagnoses based on National Institute on Aging and the Alzheimer's Association (NIA-AA) criteria^{22,55}:
 - Mild cognitive impairment (MCI) due to Alzheimer's disease; **or**
 - Probable Alzheimer's disease dementia
 - and**
 - Submission of current medical records (e.g., chart notes, laboratory values) documenting that the patient continues to meet **all** of the following (updated assessments must be measured no earlier than 4 weeks prior to a continuation request)^{53,56}:
 - Global Clinical Dementia Rating (CDR) score of 0.5 or 1.0; **and**
 - CDR Memory Box score of 0.5 or greater; **and**
 - **One** of the following:
 - Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE) score of 22 or greater
 - Saint Louis University Mental Status (SLUMS) score of 17 or greater
 - Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA) score of 17 or greater
 - and**
 - **Both** of the following:
 - Submission of medical records (e.g., chart notes) confirming follow-up brain magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) has been completed after the initiation of therapy and prior to the 5th and 7th infusion treatment; **and**
 - **One** of the following:
 - ARIA has not been observed on MRI; **or**
 - All of the following:
 - ARIA has been observed on MRI; **and**
 - Prescriber attests that continuation of therapy with Leqembi is appropriate based on the severity of the patient's clinical symptoms; **and**
 - **One** of the following:
 - Follow-up MRI demonstrates radiographic resolution and/or stabilization; **or**
 - Prescriber attests that continuation of therapy with Leqembi is appropriate based on the radiographic severity of ARIA

and

- Not used in combination with other A β monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) for Alzheimer's Disease (e.g., Aduhelm); **and**
- Prescribed by a neurologist, geriatric psychiatrist, or geriatrician who specializes in treating dementia; **and**
- Leqembi dosing is in accordance with the United States Food and Drug Administration approved labeling; **and**
- Reauthorization is for no more than 6 months

Leqembi (lecanemab-irmb) is unproven and not medically necessary for any indication other than mild cognitive impairment due to Alzheimer's disease and mild Alzheimer's disease dementia.

Applicable Codes

The following list(s) of procedure and/or diagnosis codes is provided for reference purposes only and may not be all inclusive. Listing of a code in this policy does not imply that the service described by the code is a covered or non-covered health service. Benefit coverage for health services is determined by the member specific benefit plan document and applicable laws that may require coverage for a specific service. The inclusion of a code does not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee claim payment. Other Policies and Guidelines may apply.

HCPCS Code	Description
J0174	Injection, lecanemab-irmb, 1mg

Diagnosis Code	Description
G30.0	Alzheimer's disease with early onset
G30.1	Alzheimer's disease with late onset
G30.8	Other Alzheimer's disease
G30.9	Alzheimer's disease, unspecified

Background

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is the most common cause of dementia and accounts for an estimated 60% to 80% of cases¹. After AD, the most common neurodegenerative dementias are Lewy body disease, characterized by chronic rapid eye movement (REM) sleep behavior disorder, early visuospatial impairment, and parkinsonism; and Frontotemporal dementia, characterized by a behavioral variant or less often, a language impairment variant.²

AD is characterized by deposition of amyloid-beta A β plaques and neurofibrillary tangles (comprised of abnormal tau protein) in the brain, accompanied by synaptic dysfunction and neurodegeneration.^{3,4} The deposition of A β (as amyloid plaques) generally begins decades before any symptoms of AD are observed. More specifically, A β deposition is followed sequentially by markers of neurodegeneration, accumulation of tau pathology, and brain volume loss. This pre-symptomatic phase of AD will precede the emergence of AD symptoms 10 to 20 years prior.⁵

Tau is the microtubule associated protein (MAP) of a normal mature neuron. Tau is a phosphoprotein that promotes the assembly of tubulin into microtubules and stabilization of their structure. In AD (and certain other related neurodegenerative diseases, called tauopathies), tau protein is abnormally hyperphosphorylated and aggregated into bundles of filaments. In AD, this tau pathology is seen as intraneuronal neurofibrillary tangles of paired helical filaments sometimes admixed with straight filaments. Aggregates of abnormally hyperphosphorylated filaments are also seen in dystrophic neurites surrounding the A β plaque core, and in the neuropil as neuropil threads.⁶

There are 2 ways to detect abnormal A β , either directly via PET imaging using tracers or indirectly by measuring the levels of the long form of A β in the CSF. P-tau and t-tau can also be detected using CSF and are used as biomarkers to detect the emergence of AD in patients with MCI.⁷

Age of AD onset:⁸

- Typical AD: AD is characteristically a disease of older age. The incidence and prevalence of AD increase exponentially with age, essentially doubling in prevalence every 5 years after the age of 65 years.
- Early-onset dementia: Although less common, early-onset dementia occurs in patients < 65 years of age. These patients often present with symptoms somewhat atypical for this disease, such as language, visual, or mood-behavioral changes rather than predominant memory loss. A study from the United Kingdom estimated that the incidence of dementia in individuals 30 to 65 years of age was approximately 54 per 100,000 person-years. The most common cause of dementia in these patients was AD (34%), followed by vascular dementia (18%), frontotemporal dementia (12%), dementia with Lewy bodies (7%), and alcohol-related dementia (10%).⁹
- Inherited forms of AD: These forms of AD are rare (< 1% of all AD cases) and routinely present before 65 years of age, frequently in the fifth decade or earlier. Inherited forms of AD typically exhibit an autosomal-dominant inheritance pattern related to mutations in genes that alter A β protein production or metabolism, including amyloid precursor protein (APP), presenilin-1 (PSEN1), and presenilin-2 (PSEN2).
- AD associated with Down syndrome: Patients with Down syndrome have an additional gene dose of APP due to trisomy of chromosome 21 and inevitably develop AD pathology. Symptoms tend to emerge at an earlier age, i.e., 10 to 20 years earlier than the general population with AD.

Risk factors for AD:²

- Aging is an important risk factor for dementia. AD affects 5% to 10% of people > 65 years of age, and 50% of those \geq 85 years of age.
- Nonmodifiable risk factors for AD include female gender, Black race, Hispanic ethnicity, and genetic factors such as presence of the APOE gene.
- Modifiable risk factors for all-cause dementia include hypertension, diabetes, diet, and limited cognitive, physical, and social activities.

While the genetic basis for early-onset AD is much better understood, the genetic basis of late-onset AD is considered far more complex, with susceptibility conferred by a variety of more common but less penetrant genetic factors likely interacting with environmental and epigenetic influences. To date, the most firmly established genetic risk factor for late-onset disease is APOE:¹⁰

- The APOE gene is located on chromosome 19 and exists in 3 alleles: epsilon 2, 3, and 4. The APOE epsilon 4 (ϵ 4) allele has been confirmed to be an important risk factor for AD in many clinical trials.
- Factors that may influence the impact of APOE ϵ 4 on AD risk include female gender, African/African-American race (although there are conflicting data), vascular risk factors (e.g., smoking, diabetes, hypertension, and hypercholesterolemia), and modifier genes/environment.
- Genetic testing is available for the known causative genes in early-onset AD but has not been widely adopted, likely in part because of the current lack of highly effective preventive or therapeutic strategies.

The symptoms at early stage AD are less pronounced than in later stages of AD, and therefore require measures that are different from those used in later stages.

The Clinical Dementia Rating-Sum of Boxes (CDR-SB) is an integrated scale that assesses both daily function and cognitive effects and was shown to be sufficiently sensitive and specific to detect change over time in early symptomatic AD patients. The scale integrates assessments from 3 domains of cognition (memory, orientation, judgment/problem-solving) and 3 domains of function (community affairs, home/hobbies, personal care). CDR-SB scores range from 0-18, with higher scores indicating greater disease severity. A minimal clinically important difference in CDR-SB has not been clearly defined but has been estimated to be 1-2 points.^{5,11,41} A CDR-SB score ranging from 0.5 - 4.0 has been reported to correspond to a CDR-G score of 0.5. A CDR-SB score ranging from 4.5-9.0 has been reported to correspond to a CDR-G score of 1.²⁶

CDR-SB Score	Disease Severity
0	Normal
0.5 - 4.0	Suggests questionable cognitive impairment to very mild dementia
0.5 - 2.5	Suggests questionable cognitive impairment
3.0 - 4.0	Suggests very mild dementia
4.5 - 9.0	Suggests mild dementia

CDR-SB Score	Disease Severity
9.5 - 15.5	Suggests moderate dementia
16.0 - 18.0	Suggests severe dementia

The Mini-Mental State Exam (MMSE) is a widely used performance-based test of global cognitive status. The MMSE is a measure of cognition that includes 11 tasks relating to topics of word recall, attention and calculation, language ability, and visuospatial function. The scale ranges from 0 to 30 with a lower score reflecting greater cognitive impairment. It has several known limitations impacting sensitivity to change, particularly in earlier disease stages: substantial ceiling effects, sensitivity to practice effects, scores are impacted by patients' educational achievement, and learning effects are observed. The minimal clinically important difference of the MMSE in AD is estimated to be 1-3 points, and in early AD to be 1-2 points.^{5,11,12,27,41}

MMSE Score	Disease Severity
25 - 30	Normal to questionable cognitive impairment
19 - 24	Suggests mild dementia
10 - 18	Suggests moderate dementia
0 - 9	Suggests severe dementia

The Alzheimer's Disease Assessment Scale – Cognitive Subscale (13-Item version) (ADAS-Cog13) comprises both cognitive tasks and clinical ratings of cognitive performance. The scale items capture word recall, ability to follow commands, the ability to correctly copy or draw an image, naming, the ability to interact with everyday objects, orientation, word recognition, memory, comprehension of spoken language, word-finding, and language ability, with a measure for delayed word recall and concentration/distractibility. The total score ranges from 0 to 85 with an increase in score over time indicates increasing cognitive impairment. The minimal clinically important difference of the ADAS-COG 13 in early AD is estimated to be 3 points.^{5,11,42}

The Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA) is a widely used screening test specifically designed to detect more subtle cognitive deficits that characterize mild cognitive impairment. Like the MMSE, the MoCA is scored on a 30-point scale, with items that assess delayed word recall, visuospatial/executive function, language, attention/concentration, and orientation. Studies examining head-to-head performance of patients on the MMSE and MoCA have shown that the MoCA is more difficult; MoCA scores are consistently lower than those obtained on the MMSE. The MoCA appears to be more sensitive than the MMSE for detecting MCI, though perhaps slightly less specific. A minimum clinically important difference of the MoCA in AD has not been described.⁴³

Assessment Scale	Minimal Clinical Important Difference
Clinical Dementia Rating-Sum of Boxes (CDR-SB)	1-2 points
Mini-Mental State Exam (MMSE)	1-3 points
Alzheimer's Disease Assessment Scale – Cognitive Subscale (13-Item version) (ADAS-Cog13)	3 points

The stages of AD dementia can be defined by the MMSE and MoCA scores below:¹²

- Mild dementia (MMSE 19 to 26; MoCA 12 to 16)
- Moderate dementia (MMSE 10 to 18; MoCA 4 to 11)
- Severe dementia (MMSE < 10; MoCA < 4)

The National Institute on Aging and the Alzheimer's Association (NIA-AA) research framework committee created a numeric clinical staging scheme (table below) applicable for diagnosing those in the Alzheimer's continuum. This staging scheme reflects the sequential evolution of AD from an initial stage characterized by the appearance of abnormal AD biomarkers in asymptomatic individuals. As biomarker abnormalities progress, the earliest subtle symptoms become detectable.⁴⁰

Stage	Numeric Clinical Staging—Applicable Only to Individuals in the Alzheimer’s Continuum
Stage 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance within expected range on objective cognitive tests. Cognitive test performance may be compared to normative data of the investigator’s choice, with or without adjustment (the choice of the investigators) for age, sex, education, etc.* • Does not report recent decline in cognition or new onset of neurobehavioral symptoms of concern. • No evidence of recent cognitive decline or new neurobehavioral symptoms by report of an observer (e.g., study partner) or by longitudinal cognitive testing if available.
Stage 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal performance within expected range on objective cognitive tests. • Transitional cognitive decline: Decline in previous level of cognitive function, which may involve any cognitive domain(s) (i.e., not exclusively memory). • May be documented through subjective report of cognitive decline that is of concern to the participant. • Represents a change from individual baseline within past 1–3 years, and persistent for at least 6 months. • May be corroborated by informant but not required. • Or may be documented by evidence of subtle decline on longitudinal cognitive testing but not required. • Or may be documented by both subjective report of decline and objective evidence on longitudinal testing. • Although cognition is the core feature, mild neurobehavioral changes—for example, changes in mood, anxiety, or motivation—may coexist. In some individuals, the primary complaint may be neurobehavioral rather than cognitive. Neurobehavioral symptoms should have a clearly defined recent onset, which persists and cannot be explained by life events† • No functional impact on daily life activities.
Stage 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance in the impaired/abnormal range on objective cognitive tests. • Evidence of decline from baseline, documented by the individual’s report or by observer (e.g., study partner) report or by change on longitudinal cognitive testing or neurobehavioral behavioral assessments. • May be characterized by cognitive presentations that are not primarily amnesic‡ • Performs daily life activities independently, but cognitive difficulty may result in detectable but mild functional impact on the more complex activities of daily life, that is, may take more time or be less efficient but still can complete, either self-reported or corroborated by a study partner.
Stage 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mild dementia. • Substantial progressive cognitive impairment affecting several domains, and/or neurobehavioral disturbance. Documented by the individual’s report or by observer (e.g., study partner) report or by change on longitudinal cognitive testing. • Clearly evident functional impact on daily life, affecting mainly instrumental activities. No longer fully independent/requires occasional assistance with daily life activities.
Stage 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate dementia. • Progressive cognitive impairment or neurobehavioral changes. Extensive functional impact on daily life with impairment in basic activities. No longer independent and requires frequent assistance with daily life activities.
Stage 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe dementia. • Progressive cognitive impairment or neurobehavioral changes. Clinical interview may not be possible. • Complete dependency due to severe functional impact on daily life with impairment in basic activities, including basic self-care.

Stage	Numeric Clinical Staging—Applicable Only to Individuals in the Alzheimer’s Continuum
Notes	<p>* For stages 1-6: Cognitive test performance may be compared to normative data of the investigator’s choice, with or without adjustment (choice of the investigators) for age, sex, education, etc.</p> <p>† For stages 2-6: Although cognition is the core feature, neurobehavioral changes – for example, changes in mood, anxiety, or motivation – may coexist.</p> <p>‡ For stages 3-6: Cognitive impairment may be characterized by presentations that are not primarily amnesic.</p>

Despite the existence of several FDA-approved therapies for AD, there is an unmet medical need for treatments that are intended to address the biological basis of AD. Currently approved treatments do not target the underlying pathology of AD.⁵ Cholinesterase inhibitors (donepezil, galantamine, and rivastigmine) and the NMDA-antagonist, memantine, are the only FDA-approved and guideline-recommended treatments for AD dementia.¹³ The majority of patients with newly diagnosed AD should be offered a trial of a cholinesterase inhibitor for symptomatic treatment of cognition and global functioning. However, the degree of expected benefit is modest, and therapy should only be continued in patients who appear to be benefiting.¹²

Leqembi (lecanemab-irmb) is a humanized immunoglobulin gamma 1 (IgG1) monoclonal antibody directed against aggregated soluble and insoluble forms of amyloid beta. The accumulation of amyloid beta plaques in the brain is a defining pathophysiological feature of Alzheimer’s disease.

Clinical Evidence

Multiple investigational anti-A β antibodies have been developed with the goal of either reducing production of A β or lowering levels of aggregated A β present in the brain, the latter of which has been the most pursued approach. Many of these investigational drugs have failed to demonstrate efficacy and/or safety. Some explanations for the failures of previous anti-A β antibodies include the following:^{5,14}

- Inclusion of patients in clinical trials without evidence of A β pathology
- Unknown or no target engagement prior to initiation of Phase 3 study (i.e., poor selectivity of drug for neurotoxic A β)
- Lack of robust and sustained inhibition of soluble A β oligomers
- Use of subtherapeutic doses (possibly due to decreased brain penetration)
- Inclusion of patients at later stages of AD dementia, when significant irreversible neurodegeneration has already occurred

FDA approval for lecanemab was based on Study 201, an 18-month, Phase 2b, double-blind, placebo controlled, multicenter, randomized control trial that evaluated the safety and efficacy of lecanemab. The study aimed to establish the effective dose 90% (ED90), defined as the simplest dose that achieves $\geq 90\%$ of the maximum treatment effect. The primary endpoint was Bayesian analysis of 12-month clinical change on the Alzheimer’s Disease Composite Score (ADCOMS) for the ED90 dose, which required an 80% probability of $\geq 25\%$ clinical reduction in decline versus placebo. Study 201 enrolled 854 were treated to lecanemab, 609 or placebo, 245. Of the total number of patients randomized, 71.4% were ApoE $\epsilon 4$ carriers and 28.6% were ApoE $\epsilon 4$ non-carriers. During the study, the protocol was amended to no longer randomize ApoE $\epsilon 4$ carriers to the 10 mg/kg every two weeks dose arm. ApoE $\epsilon 4$ carriers who had been receiving lecanemab 10 mg/kg every two weeks for 6 months or less were discontinued from study drug. The primary analysis conducted at Month 12 of treatment indicated that the 10 mg/kg IV biweekly dose (the effective dose) had a 64% probability to be better than placebo by 25% on ADCOMS at 12 months, missing the prespecified 80% probability threshold for the primary outcome.

The results for the Bayesian analysis for reduction of clinical decline at 18 months vs placebo for 10 mg/kg biweekly on ADCOMS (-27%, with 97.7% probability to be superior to placebo), CDR-SB (33%, with 96.4% probability to be superior to placebo), and ADASCog14 (56%, with a 98.8% probability to be superior to placebo) were similar to the results from the corresponding conventional analyses for clinical measures when comparing mean change from baseline and least squares (LS) mean data.⁵⁴

The CLARITY AD Phase 3 study was conducted to evaluate the efficacy of lecanemab in participants with early Alzheimer’s disease (EAD) by determining the superiority of lecanemab compared with placebo on the change from baseline in the Clinical Dementia Rating-Sum of Boxes (CDR-SB) at 18 months of treatment in the Core Study.⁵¹ This study will also evaluate the long-term safety and tolerability of lecanemab in participants with EAD in the Extension Phase and whether the long-term effects of

lecanemab as measured by the CDR-SB at the end of the Core Study is maintained over time in the Extension Phase. CLARITY AD was an 18-month, multicenter, double-blind, phase 3 trial involving persons 50 to 90 years of age with early Alzheimer's disease (mild cognitive impairment or mild dementia due to Alzheimer's disease) with evidence of amyloid on positron-emission tomography (PET) or by cerebrospinal fluid testing.⁵² Participants were randomly assigned in a 1:1 ratio to receive intravenous lecanemab (10 mg per kilogram of body weight every 2 weeks) or placebo. The primary end point was the change from baseline at 18 months in the score on the Clinical Dementia Rating– Sum of Boxes (CDR-SB; range, 0 to 18, with higher scores indicating greater impairment). Key secondary end points were the change in amyloid burden on PET, the score on the 14-item cognitive subscale of the Alzheimer's Disease Assessment Scale (ADAS-cog14; range, 0 to 90; higher scores indicate greater impairment), the Alzheimer's Disease Composite Score (ADCOMS; range, 0 to 1.97; higher scores indicate greater impairment), and the score on the Alzheimer's Disease Cooperative Study–Activities of Daily Living Scale for Mild Cognitive Impairment (ADCSMCI-ADL; range, 0 to 53; lower scores indicate greater impairment). A total of 1795 participants were enrolled, with 898 assigned to receive lecanemab and 897 to receive placebo. The mean CDR-SB score at baseline was approximately 3.2 in both groups. The adjusted least-squares mean change from baseline at 18 months was 1.21 with lecanemab and 1.66 with placebo (difference, -0.45; 95% confidence interval [CI], -0.67 to -0.23; $p < 0.001$). Furthermore, a slope analysis demonstrated that lecanemab took 5.5 to 6 months more time to achieve the same CDR-SB as placebo at 18 months, indicating a 5.5 to 6 month slowing of progression. A β plaque reduction was a secondary endpoint and was studied in a subset of patients ($n = 698$). The adjusted mean change from baseline at 18 months was -55.48 centiloids in the lecanemab group vs 3.64 centiloids in the placebo group (adjusted mean difference, -59.12 centiloids; 95% CI, -62.64 to -55.60; $p < 0.001$). Lecanemab resulted in infusion-related reactions in 26.4% of the participants and amyloid-related imaging abnormalities with edema or effusions in 12.6%. The incidence of ARIA-E with lecanemab was 12.5% vs 1.7% with placebo (symptomatic ARIA-E: 2.8% vs 0% with placebo). The incidence of ARIA-H was 17.0% vs 8.7% with placebo (symptomatic ARIA-H: 0.7% vs 0.2% in placebo group). In a sub study involving 698 participants, there were greater reductions in brain amyloid burden with lecanemab than with placebo (difference, -59.1 centiloids; 95% CI, -62.6 to -55.6). Other mean differences between the two groups in the change from baseline favoring lecanemab were as follows: for the ADAS-cog14 score, -1.44 (95% CI, -2.27 to -0.61; $p < 0.001$); for the ADCOMS, -0.050 (95% CI, -0.074 to -0.027; $p < 0.001$); and for the ADCS-MCIADL score, 2.0 (95% CI, 1.2 to 2.8; $p < 0.001$).

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

This section is to be used for informational purposes only. FDA approval alone is not a basis for coverage.

Leqembi (lecanemab-irmb) is indicated for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease. Treatment with Leqembi should be initiated in patients with mild cognitive impairment or mild dementia stage of disease, the population in which treatment was initiated in clinical trials.

References

1. Alzheimer's Association. 2022 Alzheimer's disease facts and figures. <https://www.alz.org/media/documents/alzheimers-facts-and-figures.pdf>. Accessed December 13, 2022.
2. Arvanitakis Z, Shah RC, Bennett DA. Diagnosis and management of dementia: a review. *JAMA*. 2019;322(16):1589-1599.
3. Hyman BT, Phelps CH, Beach TG, et al. National Institute on Aging-Alzheimer's Association guidelines for the neuropathic assessment of Alzheimer's disease. *Alzheimer's Dement*. 2012;8(1):1-13.
4. Sevigny, J., Chiao, P., Bussière, T. et al. The antibody aducanumab reduces A β plaques in Alzheimer's disease. *Nature* 537, 50-56 (2016).
5. Food and Drug Administration. Combined FDA and Applicant PCNS Drugs Advisory Committee Briefing Document. November 6, 2020. <https://www.fda.gov/media/143502/download>. Accessed December 13, 2022.
6. Iqbal K, Liu F, Gong CX, et al. Tau in Alzheimer's Disease and related tauopathies. *Curr Alzheimer Res*. 2010;7(8): 656-664.
7. Aducanumab [unapproved dossier], Cambridge, MA: Biogen; 2020.
8. Wolk DA, Dickerson BC. Clinical features and diagnosis of Alzheimer disease. UpToDate Web site. Updated October 8, 2021. <http://www.uptodate.com>. Accessed December 13, 2022.
9. Keene CD, Montine TJ, Kuller LH. Epidemiology, pathology, and pathogenesis of Alzheimer's disease. UpToDate Web site. Updated August 23, 2022. <http://www.uptodate.com>. Accessed December 13, 2022.

10. Sherva R, Kowall NW. Genetics of Alzheimer disease. UpToDate Web site. Updated May 19, 2022. <http://www.uptodate.com>. Accessed December 13, 2022.
11. O'Bryant SE, Lacritz LH, Hall LH, et al. Validation of the new interpretive guidelines for the clinical dementia rating scale sum of boxes score in the National Alzheimer's Coordinating Center database. *Arch Neurol*. 2010;67(6):746-749.
12. Press D, Alexander A. Cholinesterase inhibitors in the treatment of Alzheimer's disease. UpToDate Web site. Updated June 21, 2021. <http://www.uptodate.com>. Accessed December 13, 2022.
13. Atri A. The Alzheimer's disease clinical spectrum diagnosis and management. *Med Clin N Am*. 2019;103:263-293.
14. Tolar M, Abushakra S, Sabbagh M. The path forward in Alzheimer's disease therapeutics: Reevaluating the amyloid cascade hypothesis. *Alzheimers Dement*. 2020;16(11):1553-1560.
15. Biogen. News Release. Biogen and Eisai announce FDA's 3-month extension of review period for the Biologics License Application for aducanumab. <https://investors.biogen.com/news-releases/news-release-details/biogen-and-eisai-announce-fdas-3-month-extension-review-period>. January 29, 2021 [a]. Accessed December 13, 2022.
16. Biogen. News Release. Update on FDA's advisory committee's meeting on aducanumab in Alzheimer's Disease. November 6, 2020 [b]. <https://investors.biogen.com/news-releases/news-release-details/update-fda-advisory-committees-meeting-aducanumab-alzheimers>. Accessed December 13, 2022.
17. Clinicaltrials.gov Web site. <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04241068?term=NCT04241068&draw=2&rank=1>. Accessed December 13, 2022.
18. Haeberlein SB, von Hehn C, Tian Y, et al. EMERGE and ENGAGE topline results: two Phase 3 studies to evaluate aducanumab in patients with early Alzheimer's disease. Slides presented at: Advances in Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Therapies, an AAT-AD/PD focus meeting; April 2-5, 2020; Vienna, Austria.
19. Food and Drug Administration. Aducanumab for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease - PCNS Drugs Advisory Committee. November 6, 2020. <https://www.fda.gov/media/143506/download>. Accessed December 13, 2022.
20. Petersen RC, Lopez O, Armstrong MJ, et al. Practice guideline update: mild cognitive impairment. *Neurology*. 2018;90(3):126-135.
21. ClinicalTrials.gov: <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02484547>. Accessed December 13, 2022.
22. McKhann GM, Knopman DS, Chertkow H, et al. The diagnosis of dementia due to Alzheimer's disease: recommendations from the National Institute on Aging-Alzheimer's Association workgroups on diagnostic guidelines for Alzheimer's disease. *Alzheimers Dement*. 2011;7(3):263-269.
23. Albert MS, DeKosky ST, Dickson D, et al. The diagnosis of mild cognitive impairment due to Alzheimer's disease: recommendations from the National Institute on Aging-Alzheimer's Association workgroups on diagnostic guidelines for Alzheimer's disease. *Alzheimers Dement*. 2011;7(3):270-279.
24. ClinicalTrials.gov: <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02477800>. Accessed December 13, 2022.
25. EMERGE and ENGAGE Topline Results: Two Phase 3 Studies to Evaluate Aducanumab in Patients With Early Alzheimer's Disease. Biogen. Cambridge, MA. December 5, 2019.
26. O'Bryant SE, Waring SC, Cullum CM, et al. Staging Dementia Using Clinical Dementia Rating Scale Sum of Boxes Scores: A Texas Alzheimer's Research Consortium Study. *Arch Neurol*. 2008;65(8):1091-1095.
27. Folstein MF, Folstein SE, McHugh PR. "Mini-mental state". A practical method for grading the cognitive state of patients for the clinician. *J Psychiatr Res*. 1975;12(3):189-198.
28. Aduhelm [package insert]. Cambridge, MA: Biogen, Inc, October 2022.
29. Hansson O, Seibyl J, Stomrud E, et al. CSF biomarkers of Alzheimer's disease concord with amyloid- β PET and predict clinical progression: A study of fully automated immunoassays in BioFINDER and ADNI cohorts. *Alzheimers Dement*. 2018 November; 14(11): 1470-1481. Supplementary data related to this article can be found at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jalz.2018.01.010>.
30. S.-K. Herukka et al. Recommendations for cerebrospinal fluid Alzheimer's disease biomarkers in the diagnostic evaluation of mild cognitive impairment. *Alzheimer's & Dementia* 13 (2017) 285-295. Supplementary data related to this article can be found at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jalz.2016.09.009>.

31. Alcolea D, et al. Agreement of amyloid PET and CSF biomarkers for Alzheimer's disease on Lumipulse. *Annals of Clinical and Translational Neurology* 2019; 6(9): 1815-1824.
32. MayoCliniclabs.com: ADEVL - Clinical: Alzheimer Disease Evaluation, Spinal Fluid. <https://www.mayocliniclabs.com/test-catalog/Overview/607273>. Accessed December 13, 2022.
33. Jack CR Jr, Bennett DA, Blennow K, et al: NIA-AA Research Framework: Toward a biological definition of Alzheimer's disease. *Alzheimers Dement*. 2018 Apr;14(4):535-562.
34. Lifke V, Kollmorgen G, Manuilova E, et al: Elecsys Total-Tau and Phospho-Tau (181P) CSF assays: Analytical performance of the novel, fully automated immunoassays for quantification of tau proteins in human cerebrospinal fluid. *Clin Biochem*. 2019 Oct;72:30-38.
35. Willemse EAJ, van Maurik IS, Tijms BM, et al: Diagnostic performance of Elecsys immunoassays for cerebrospinal fluid Alzheimer's disease biomarkers in a nonacademic, multicenter memory clinic cohort: The ABIDE project. *Alzheimers Dement (Amst)*. 2018 Sep 12;10:563-572.
36. Hansson O, Seibyl J, Stomrud E et al: CSF biomarkers of Alzheimer's disease concord with amyloid-beta PET and predict clinical progression: A study of fully automated immunoassays in BioFINDER and ADNI cohorts. *Alzheimers Dement*. 2018 Nov;14(11):1470-1481.
37. Schindler SE, Gray JD, Gordon BA, et al: Cerebrospinal fluid biomarkers measured by Elecsys assays compared to amyloid imaging. *Alzheimers Dement*. 2018 Nov;14(11):1460-1469.
38. Shaw LM, Arias J, Blennow K, et al: Appropriate use criteria for lumbar puncture and cerebrospinal fluid testing in the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease. *Alzheimers Dement*. 2018; 14(11):1505-1521.
39. Hansson O, Batrla R, Brix B, et al: The Alzheimer's Association international guidelines for handling of cerebrospinal fluid for routine clinical measurements of amyloid beta and tau. *Alzheimers Dement*. 2021 Mar 31. doi: 10.1002/alz.12316. Epub ahead of print.
40. Clifford R. Jack Jr., et al: NIA-AA Research Framework: Toward a biological definition of Alzheimer's disease. *Alzheimers Dement*. 2018 April; 14(4): 535–562. doi:10.1016/j.jalz.2018.02.018.
41. Andrews JS, et al: Disease severity and minimal clinically important differences in clinical outcome assessments for Alzheimer's disease clinical trials. *Alzheimer's & Dementia: Translational Research & Clinical Interventions* 5 (2019) 354-363.
42. Schrag A, Schott JM; Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative. What is the clinically relevant change on the ADAS-Cog? *J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry*. 2012 Feb;83(2):171-3.
43. Mendez MF. Mental status scales to evaluate cognition. UpToDate Website. Updated April 16, 2019. <http://www.uptodate.com>. Accessed December 13, 2022.
44. Lin GA, Whittington MD, Synnott PG, McKenna A, Campbell J, Pearson SD, Rind DM. Aducanumab for Alzheimer's Disease: Effectiveness and Value; Final Evidence Report and Meeting Summary. Institute for Clinical and Economic Review, August 5, 2021. <https://icer.org/assessment/alzheimers-disease-2021/>.
45. Minoshima S, Drzezga AE, Barthel H, et al. SNMMI Procedure Standard/EANM Practice Guideline for Amyloid PET Imaging of the Brain 1.0. *J Nucl Med*. 2016 Aug;57(8):1316-22.
46. Food and Drug Administration. Medical Review. https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/nda/2021/761178Orig1s000MedR_Redacted.pdf. June 22, 2021. Accessed December 13, 2022.
47. Food and Drug Administration. Statistical Review. June 22, 2021. https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/nda/2021/761178Orig1s000StatR_Redacted.pdf. Accessed December 13, 2022.
48. Food and Drug Administration. Office of Neurology's Summary Review Memorandum. June 22, 2021. https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/nda/2021/Aducanumab_BLA761178_Dunn_2021_06_07.pdf. Accessed December 13, 2022.
49. Food and Drug Administration. Concurrence Memorandum from Peter Stein, MD. Director, Office of New Drugs. June 22, 2021. https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/nda/2021/Aducanumab_BLA761178_Stein_2021_06_07.pdf. Accessed December 13, 2022.

50. Food and Drug Administration. Memorandum from Patrizia Cavazzoni, MD. Director, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER). June 22, 2021.
https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/nda/2021/Aducanumab_BLA761178_Cavazzoni_2021_06_07.pdf. Accessed December 13, 2022.
51. Clinicaltrials.gov Web site. <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT03887455>. Accessed December 13, 2022.
52. van Dyck CH, Swanson CJ, Aisen P, et al. Lecanemab in Early Alzheimer's Disease [published online ahead of print, 2022 Nov 29]. N Engl J Med. 2022;10.1056/NEJMoa2212948. doi:10.1056/NEJMoa2212948.
53. Clinicaltrials.gov Web site. <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT03367403>. Accessed December 13, 2022.
54. Mintun MA, Lo AC, Duggan Evans C, et al. Donanemab in Early Alzheimer's Disease. N Engl J Med. 2021;384(18):1691-1704. doi:10.1056/NEJMoa2100708.
55. Leqembi [Package insert]. Eisai, Inc. Nutley, NJ. July 2023.
56. Clinicaltrials.gov Web site. <https://www.clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT01767311>. Accessed January 24, 2023.

Policy History/Revision Information

Date	Summary of Changes
11/01/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Medical Benefit Drug Policy

Instructions for Use

This Medical Benefit Drug Policy provides assistance in interpreting UnitedHealthcare standard benefit plans. When deciding coverage, the member specific benefit plan document must be referenced as the terms of the member specific benefit plan may differ from the standard plan. In the event of a conflict, the member specific benefit plan document governs. Before using this policy, please check the member specific benefit plan document and any applicable federal or state mandates. UnitedHealthcare reserves the right to modify its Policies and Guidelines as necessary. This Medical Benefit Drug Policy is provided for informational purposes. It does not constitute medical advice.

This Medical Benefit Drug Policy may also be applied to Medicare Advantage plans in certain instances. In the absence of a Medicare National Coverage Determination (NCD), Local Coverage Determination (LCD), or other Medicare coverage guidance, CMS allows a Medicare Advantage Organization (MAO) to create its own coverage determinations, using objective evidence-based rationale relying on authoritative evidence ([Medicare IOM Pub. No. 100-16, Ch. 4, §90.5](#)).

UnitedHealthcare may also use tools developed by third parties, such as the InterQual[®] criteria, to assist us in administering health benefits. UnitedHealthcare Medical Benefit Drug Policies are intended to be used in connection with the independent professional medical judgment of a qualified health care provider and do not constitute the practice of medicine or medical advice.