



**Northamptonshire Healthcare**  
NHS Foundation Trust

# **MMG022 GUIDELINES FOR INITIATION AND USE OF ARIPIPRAZOLE LONG ACTING INJECTION**

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## Why we need this Guideline

Aripiprazole long-acting injection (Abilify Maintena®) is a high cost medicine, and it has been agreed by the Medicines Management Committee that to ensure use is targeted towards the most appropriate patients that the following guidelines should be followed when initiating treatment.

## What the Guideline is trying to do

To provide guidance on the use of Aripiprazole long acting injection.

## Which stakeholders have been involved in the creation of this Guideline

Medicines Management Committee

## Any required definitions/explanations

LAI - Long acting injection

HoNOS

NHFT - Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

## Key duties

### Medicines Management Committee

Will approve and review these guidelines

Will review any applications for Aripiprazole long acting injection the Chief pharmacist submits for consideration.

### Medical Director

Is responsible for the dissemination of this guideline to their Clinical Director's and Clinical Tutor's.

### Clinical Directors

Are responsible for the dissemination and implementation of the guideline in their service areas.

### Heads of Hospitals and Locality Managers

Are responsible for the dissemination and implementation of the guideline in their service areas.

### Consultants

Are responsible for completing the application form for Aripiprazole LAI and submitting to the Chief pharmacist for approval.

### Chief Pharmacist

Is responsible for

- reviewing and approving, as appropriate, applications for Aripiprazole LAI. (in the absence of the chief pharmacist this task will be delegated to the Medical Director or the Deputy Chief Pharmacist )
- maintaining a database of all applications for Aripiprazole LAI

## Use Of Aripiprazole Long acting injection

An application system for use of Aripiprazole long acting injection is in place, and prior to prescribing an application form must be completed and signed by the patient's consultant and forwarded to the Chief pharmacist for consideration and approval.

*This document is uncontrolled once printed. Please refer to the Trust intranet for the current version.*

### **Licensed indications:**

Aripiprazole Long acting Injection (LAI) is indicated for the maintenance treatment of schizophrenia in patients currently stabilised with oral aripiprazole<sup>1</sup>

### **When to consider using Aripiprazole LAI**

Use of Aripiprazole LAI may be considered in the following circumstances:

- 1) Patients presently prescribed an oral atypical with compliance problems or where patient choice and clinical need favour the use of a depot
  - Every effort should be made to establish any reasons for non-compliance. If it is because of side-effects an alternative atypical with a different side-effect profile should be tried.
  - If the non-compliance cannot be addressed by changing to another oral medicine or by increased support, use of aripiprazole long-acting injection may be considered with monitoring as listed below.
- 2) Patients presently on typical depots
  - If they are not suffering from extrapyramidal side effects (EPSEs), patients presently on typical depots should continue on them.
  - If a patient is experiencing unacceptable EPSEs and has not recently been offered the alternative of an oral atypical antipsychotic, this should be considered. Non-compliance in the past may no longer be an issue and if agreeing to take regular oral medication is an alternative to suffering from EPSEs patients may agree to the change. Any issues of support should be addressed.
  - If a patient is experiencing unacceptable EPSEs and changing to an oral atypical has been unsuccessful in the past because of non-compliance, the reasons should be reviewed. If it was due to other side effects, consideration should then be given to changing to another oral atypical with a different side effect profile. If, however, a patient is unlikely to comply with any oral medication and is suffering unacceptable EPSEs a trial of aripiprazole long acting injection may be considered.

### **Additional information to consider when initiating Aripiprazole Long acting injection**

Prior to initiation the patient must be stabilised on oral aripiprazole.

Aripiprazole long-acting injection is not appropriate for patients who have not tolerated or responded to the oral form either currently or in the past.

Within NHFT it has been agreed that patients must have received 2 weeks of a treatment dose of aripiprazole before the depot can be initiated.

The recommended starting and maintenance dose of aripiprazole LAI is 400mg. Titration of the dose is not required.

It is given by intramuscular injection into the gluteal or deltoid muscle.

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It should be administered once monthly as a single injection (no sooner than 26 days after the previous injection)

After the first injection treatment with 10mg to 20mg oral aripiprazole should be continued for 14 consecutive days to maintain therapeutic aripiprazole concentrations during initiation.

If there are adverse reactions with the 400mg dosage reduction of the dose to 300mg once monthly should be considered.

It should be noted that only 400mg vials are available on the market in the UK. Caution is therefore required when administering doses less than 400mg to ensure the vial is reconstituted correctly as the pack insert contains details for reconstitution of both the 400mg and 300mg vials .

**For full prescribing information see the Abilify Maintena® Summary of Product Characteristics** (available on the internet at <http://www.medicines.org.uk>).

### **Application process**

Completed application forms for aripiprazole long-acting injection may be submitted to the Chief Pharmacist who has been authorised by the MMC to approve applications which fulfil the agreed criteria. The deputy Chief Pharmacist may approve applications in the absence of the chief pharmacist. In an emergency situation when neither the Chief Pharmacist nor the Deputy Chief Pharmacist are not available applications may be made to the Medical Director or, in his absence, the Deputy Medical Directors, who may give approval for its use.

Forms are available from Berrywood Pharmacy.

Berrywood pharmacy will maintain a record of all applications for use of Aripiprazole LA injection. The NHFT Chief Pharmacist will hold a master list of all Aripiprazole LAI patients.

Prescriptions will only be dispensed where an application has been received and approved or where it can be shown that an individual has been transferred back to the care of NHFT stabilised on aripiprazole long acting injection e.g. copy of discharge information from transferring trust.

### **Patient monitoring**

To help confirm the effectiveness of the injection for individual patients and for audit purposes HoNOS rating scales should be completed at suitable intervals.

## **Training requirements associated with this Guideline**

### **Mandatory Training**

There is no mandatory training associated with this guideline

### **Specific Training not covered by Mandatory Training**

Ad hoc training sessions based on an individual's training needs as defined within their annual appraisal or job description.

## How this Guideline will be monitored for compliance and effectiveness

Aspect of compliance or effectiveness being monitored	Method of monitoring	Individual responsible for the monitoring	Monitoring frequency	Group or committee who receive the findings or report	Group or committee or individual responsible for completing any actions
Duties	To be addressed by the monitoring activities below.				
Process followed for use of aripiprazole LAI	Section to be included in MMC annual report detailing number of applications received and approved and current patient numbers at year end	Chief pharmacist	Annual	Medicines management committee	Medicines management committee
Where a lack of compliance is found, the identified group, committee or individual will identify required actions, allocate responsible leads, target completion dates and ensure an assurance report is represented showing how any gaps have been addressed.					

### Equality considerations

Refer to MMP001 Control of Medicines Policy.

### Reference Guide

1 Abilify Maintena SPC last updated 6 September 2018 emc [www.medicines.org.uk](http://www.medicines.org.uk)

## Document control details

<b>Author:</b>	Chief Pharmacist
<b>Approved by and date:</b>	
<b>Responsible committee:</b>	Medicines Management Committee
<b>Any other linked Policies:</b>	MMP001 Control of Medicines Policy MMG009 Guidelines for the use of antipsychotics in schizophrenia
<b>Guideline number:</b>	MMG022
<b>Version control:</b>	2

Version No.	Date Ratified/ Amended	Date of Implementation	Next Review Date	Reason for Change (eg. full rewrite, amendment to reflect new legislation, updated flowchart, minor amendments, etc.)
1	15.11.16	15.11.16	30.11.18	Review
2	05.12.18	28.12.18	30.11.20	Review

URGENT   
Please tick  
**NON-URGENT**

For MMC use only

Application No	Patient's Initials

**Appendix 1 - APPLICATION FOR USE OF ABILIFY MAINTENA INJECTION**

<b>Patient's Name:</b>					
<b>Date of Birth:</b>	<b>NHS no:</b>				
<b>Ward (if in-patient):</b>					
<b>PCART:</b>					
<b>Diagnosis:</b>					
<b>Current Therapy:</b>					
<b>Previous Medication History:</b>					
<b>Is the patient currently stabilised on oral aripiprazole</b>					
Yes	No				
<b>If yes what was the start date of oral treatment with Aripiprazole .....</b>					
<b>If not currently stabilized on aripiprazole has patient previously tolerated and responded to oral aripiprazole?</b>					
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Has patient had EPSEs on typical antipsychotics?</b>					
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Is patient considered treatment resistant?</b>		Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Is patient compliant?</b>		Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>



<b>Brief Clinical Summary:</b>					
<b>Is patient at risk of relapse?</b>		<i>Yes</i>		<i>No</i>	
<b>Reasons why patient may benefit from use of Abilify Maintena Injection</b>					
<b>Consultant's name</b>					
<b>Signature</b>					
<b>Date</b>					
<b>Please return form to Chief Pharmacist, Pharmacy, Berrywood Hospital</b>					

For MMC use only

<b>APPROVED BY AUTHORISED PHARMACIST</b>							
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Referred for Chairman's action	<input type="checkbox"/>	Referred to MMC	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments							
Signature				Date			

<b>APPROVED BY MMC CHAIRMAN</b>		<i>Yes</i>		<i>No</i>	
Comments					
Signature			Date		