

LEQEMBI FAQ



What is Leqembi? Is it a cure for Alzheimer's Disease and all other dementia?

No. Leqembi is not a cure. But it is an approved treatment that addresses the underlying biology of Alzheimer's Disease and changes the course of the disease in a meaningful way for people in the early stages. By slowing progression of the disease with Leqembi in the early stages of Alzheimer's Disease, individuals will have more time to participate in daily life and live independently.

Who should take this drug?

The FDA specifies that Leqembi is appropriate for people with early Alzheimer's Disease with confirmation of elevated beta-amyloid. The treatment was studied in people living with early Alzheimer's Disease dementia and MCI due to Alzheimer's who showed evidence of a buildup of beta-amyloid plaques in the brain. The therapy has not been tested on people with more advanced stages of Alzheimer's Disease or those without clinical symptoms.

Do you need a PET/CT scan to diagnose Alzheimer's Disease?

There is no single diagnostic test that can determine if a person has Alzheimer's Disease. Physicians use a variety of approaches and tools to help make a diagnosis. To diagnose Alzheimer's Disease, physicians may use medical history, mental status tests, physical and neurological exams, diagnostic tests and brain imaging. However, for a patient to be eligible to receive Leqembi, a physician is required to confirm the presence of the disease's key biomarker beta-amyloid plaques. There are ultimately only two reliable ways to do this: a lumbar puncture and a PET/CT scan.

PET/CT is the only noninvasive option to confirm the presence of beta-amyloid plaques in the brain. Many patients will refuse or are unable to undergo a lumbar puncture, and those with ambiguous symptoms need an amyloid PET/CT scan to receive a diagnosis.

What is the difference between a lumbar puncture and a PET/CT scan for diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease?

Lumbar punctures survey the fluid bathing the brain and spinal cord, called the cerebrospinal fluid (CSF), looks for fragments of brain plaques. PET/CT scans involve injecting a safe radioactive marker into the bloodstream that binds to amyloid plaques in the brain. When the brain is scanned, these plaques "light up." If someone receives a lumbar puncture and a PET/CT scan, it is likely that the results will agree with each other. However, sometimes a PET/CT scan provides extra information that could correct a faulty diagnosis.

How does a patient get an amyloid PET/CT scan?

As with all PET/CT scans, a patient will need a referral from their physician. Most of these referrals will come from a neurologist or a physician who specializes in cognitive impairment. It could also come from a PCP. But it's more likely that a PCP will be involved in the beginning stages of the diagnostic process such as the medical history, mental status tests and exams, as noted above. The referral is most likely to come from a neurologist or a specialist.

How long does an Amyloid PET/CT scan take?

Only 10-20 minutes.

Is Amyloid PET/CT covered by Medicare or insurance?

Yes, it is currently covered by Medicare. Many other insurances such as Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA, Anthem Maine, Harvard Pilgrim, Cigna and Tufts are also covering the PET/CT scan, while others are not covering the scan. While we anticipate that the list of insurances who will cover this scan will continue to advance, before sending a patient that is not covered by Medicare or the insurances listed above, please refer to shields.com/amyloidPET or contact our PET/CT customer care team at 1.800.258.4674. We can provide the most up-to-date information on insurance coverage.

Can patients pay for a PET/CT scan out of pocket?

No, currently we are not able to accept out-of-pocket payment for this scan type. If you have any questions, please contact our PET/CT customer care team at 1.800.258.4674.

How many amyloid PET/CT scans are needed to confirm the presence of beta-amyloid plaque?

One. But once on Leqembi, it's likely that the patient would need to be monitored for ARIA with MRI.

How do I refer a patient for an amyloid PET/CT scan? What information is needed to schedule?

Shields is one of few providers trained and experienced in accepting these referrals. For the scan to meet medical necessity and be scheduled seamlessly, the following information must be provided by the referring office:

Order form completed in full, including:

- MD signature
- Amyloid PET/CT order "checked off"
- ICD-10 codes
 - Frequently used: G30.1 Alzheimer's Disease, G31.84 Mild Cognitive Impairment, R41.3 Memory loss
- Patient demographics

Amyloid-specific information, including:

- Any imaging reports previously completed (PET/CT scans, CT scans, MRI scans, Brain scans)
- A copy of Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE) score or similar test
- Any History and Physical (H&P) exams (including medical history and current list of medications)

AMYLOID PET/CT SCANS NOW OFFERED ACROSS OUR NETWORK



Shields Health is ready to take great care of you.



Boston/North of Boston	
Anna Jaques Hospital	25 Highland Ave., Newburyport, MA 01950
Tufts Medical Center	800 Washington St., Boston, MA 02111
South of Boston	
South Shore Hospital	55 Fogg Rd., South Weymouth, MA 02190
MetroWest	
Shields Framingham	14 Cochituate Rd., Framingham, MA 01701
Emerson Hospital - Concord	54 Baker Ave. Extension, Concord, MA 01742
Cape Cod	
Fontaine Medical Center	525 Long Pond Rd., Harwich, MA 02645
Stoneman Outpatient Center	2 Jan Sebastian Dr., Sandwich, MA 02563
Western MA	
Shields Health and Baystate Health - Wason Ave	80 Wason Ave., Springfield, MA 01107
Shields Health at UMass Memorial - Shrewsbury St.	214 Shrewsbury St., Worcester, MA 01604
Shields PET/CT at Harrington Hospital	100 South St., Southbridge, MA 01550
Berkshire Medical Center	Hillcrest Campus, 165 Tor Ct., Pittsfield, MA 01201
HealthAlliance-Clinton Hospital	275 Nichols Rd., Fitchburg, MA 01420
Cooley Dickinson Hospital	30 Locust St., Northampton, MA 01060
Maine	
Central Maine Medical Center	300 Main St., Lewiston, ME 04240
York Hospital	114 Sanford Rd., Wells, ME 04090