The image features a central 3D model of a coronavirus particle, characterized by its spherical shape and prominent, yellowish, spike-like protrusions. A syringe needle is positioned diagonally across the frame, pointing towards the virus. The background is a vibrant, multi-colored gradient of red, orange, and green, with several other virus particles scattered throughout, some in sharp focus and others blurred. The overall composition suggests a medical or scientific theme, likely related to the text about antipsychotic medications.

# **Long-Acting Injectable Antipsychotic Medications and Conversion Dosing**

Practical Tips for Practice

## Long-Acting Injectable Antipsychotic Medications and Conversion Dosing: Practical Tips for Practice

	Usual Starting Dose	Target Dose	Max Dose	Dosing Interval	Loading Dose Option	Oral or Other Overlap*	Injection Site	Special Notes
Fluphenazine Decanoate <sup>1,2</sup>	12.5-25 mg IM/SQ	12.5-50 mg (interval determined by patient response)	100 mg/dose	Q 2-4 weeks	Not established	Continue oral, decreasing dose by half after first injection, d/c oral therapy after second injection <sup>1,3</sup>	Gluteal Deltoid	Z-track recommended <sup>4</sup> Use dry syringe/needle
Haloperidol Decanoate <sup>5</sup>	10-20X daily PO dose IM	10-15X daily PO dose IM Q 4 weeks	100 mg/1 <sup>st</sup> injection; 450 mg/4 weeks	Q 4 weeks	Yes	Continue oral for the first 2 to 3 injections if not using loading dose <sup>3</sup>	Gluteal Deltoid	Z-track recommended <sup>4</sup> Do not administer > 3 ml per injection site
Risperidone Long-acting injection (Risperdal Consta®) <sup>6</sup>	25 mg IM Q 2 weeks + PO dose for 3 weeks	25-50 mg IM Q 2 weeks (range 12.5-50 mg)	50 mg Q 2 weeks	Q 2 weeks	No	Oral risperidone (or other oral antipsychotic) should be given with 1st injection and continued for 3 weeks	Gluteal Deltoid	None
Risperidone "extended release" (Perseris®) <sup>7</sup>	90 or 120 mg SQ Q month	90 or 120 mg SQ Q month	120 mg SQ Q month	Q Monthly	n/a	Establishment of tolerability by prior oral administration is recommended	Abdomen- SQ	Abdomen only Inject slow and steady
Paliperidone Palmitate monthly (Invega Sustenna®) <sup>8</sup>	234 mg IM day 1, then 156 mg IM day 8 (both in deltoid) <sup>#</sup>	117 mg IM Q monthly (range 39-234 mg)	234 mg Q month	Q Monthly	Yes	Establishment of tolerability by prior oral administration is recommended	Deltoid Gluteal (after second injection)	Deltoid Day 1 and 8 Inj.; Maintenance given deltoid or gluteal; administered 5 weeks after first injection
Paliperidone Palmitate three month (Invega Trinza®) <sup>9</sup>	Used only after establishment of four months of Paliperidone Palmitate once monthly injection (last 2 months with the same dose); dose based on Paliperidone Palmitate IM once monthly dose <sup>5</sup>	Based on Paliperidone Palmitate once monthly dose	819 mg IM Q 3 months	Q 3 months	No	Use of Paliperidone Palmitate monthly for the previous 4 months (last 2 months with the same dose)	Gluteal Deltoid	Inject slowly
Olanzapine Pamoate (Zyprexa Relprevv®) <sup>10</sup>	150 mg or 210 mg or 300 mg IM Q 2 weeks; OR 300 mg or 405 mg IM Q 4 weeks	150 mg or 210 mg or 300 mg IM Q 2 weeks OR 300 mg or 405 mg IM Q 4 weeks	300 mg Q 2 weeks; 405 mg Q 4 weeks	Q 2 weeks or Q 4 weeks	Yes	Establishment of tolerability by prior oral administration is recommended	Gluteal	Post dose monitoring: at least three hours; observe for delirium and sedation; inject steady continuous pressure
Aripiprazole Monohydrate (Abilify Maintena®) <sup>11</sup>	400 mg IM Q month	400 mg IM Q month	400 mg IM Q month	Q Monthly	No	Oral aripiprazole 10-20 mg/day (or other oral antipsychotic already in use) should be given after the first injection for 14 consecutive days	Gluteal Deltoid	Inject Slowly
Aripiprazole Lauroxil nanocrystal technology (Aristada Initio®) <sup>12</sup>	675 mg IM	Single Dose Only	675 mg	At initiation of Aripiprazole Lauroxil or if indicated for reinitiating Aripiprazole Lauroxil	n/a	30 mg oral aripiprazole in combination when initiating Aripiprazole Lauroxil and if indicated for reinitiating Aripiprazole Lauroxil	Gluteal Deltoid	Rapid and Continuous Injection
Aripiprazole Lauroxil (Aristada®) <sup>13</sup>	441 mg or 662 mg or 882 mg IM Q monthly; OR 882 mg IM Q 6 weeks; OR 1064 mg IM Q 2 months	441 mg or 662 mg or 882 mg IM Q monthly; OR 882 mg IM Q 6 weeks; OR 1064 mg IM Q 2 months	1064 mg IM Q 2 months	Q monthly (441, 662, 882 mg) Q 6 weeks (882 mg only) Q 2 months (1,064 mg only)	Yes	Oral aripiprazole should be given after the first injection for 21 consecutive days if Aripiprazole Lauroxil nanocrystal technology not utilized	Gluteal (all doses) Deltoid (441 mg dose only)	Rapid and Continuous Injection

\*Prior establishment of tolerability recommended

#Patients may be given the second initiation dose within a ±4-day flexible window

\$Patients may be given the injection up to 2 weeks before or after the 3-month time point

1. Fluphenazine Decanoate Injection, USP [package insert]. Rockford, IL: Mylan Institutional LLC; August 2018.
2. Jann MW, Ereshefsky L, Saklad SR. Clinical pharmacokinetics of the depot antipsychotics. *Clinical Pharmacokinetics* 1985;10(4):315-333.
3. [http://online.lexi.com/lco/action/doc/retrieve/docid/patch\\_f/5432273](http://online.lexi.com/lco/action/doc/retrieve/docid/patch_f/5432273); Accessed July 7, 2020.
4. McEvoy, JP. Risks versus benefits of different types of long-acting injectable antipsychotics. *J Clin Psych*. 2006;67[suppl 5]:15-18.
5. Haloperidol Decanoate Injection [package insert]. North Wales, PA: TEVA Pharmaceuticals, April 2019.
6. Risperdal Consta® [package insert]. Titusville, NJ: Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; January 2020.
7. Perseris® [package insert]. North Chesterfield, VA: Indivior, Inc; December 2019.
8. Invega Sustenna® [package insert]. Titusville, NJ: Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; January 2019.
9. Invega Trinza® [package insert]. Titusville, NJ: Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; January 2019.
10. Zyprexa Relprevv® [package insert]. Indianapolis, IN: Eli Lilly and Company; April 2020.
11. Abilify Maintena® [package insert]. Tokyo, Japan: Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co.,LTD.; June 2020.
12. Aristada Initio® [package insert]. Waltham, MA: Alkermes, Inc.; February 2020.
13. Aristada® [package insert]. Waltham, MA: Alkermes, Inc.; February 2020.

	How Supplied	Need to Reconstitute	Refrigeration Needed*	Protect from Light	Pre-filled syringes	Needles Provided	Needle Size	Stability after Reconstitution (hrs)
Fluphenazine Decanoate <sup>1,2</sup>	25 mg/mL; 5 mL multi-dose vial	No	No	Yes	No	No	21 gauge or larger	NA
Haloperidol Decanoate <sup>4</sup>	50 mg/mL & 100 mg/mL; 1 mL single-dose vials and 5 mL multi-dose vials	No	No	Yes	No	No	21 gauge	NA
Risperidone Long-acting injection (Risperdal Consta®) <sup>5</sup>	12.5, 25, 37.5 & 50 mg dose packs	Yes	Yes (7 days maximum at room temp. not to exceed 77°F)	Yes	No	Yes	Gluteal: 20 gauge, 2" Deltoid: 21 gauge, 1"	May be used up to 6 hours after suspended (store at room temp.); resuspend if necessary before administering
Risperidone "extended release" (Perseris®) <sup>5</sup>	90, 120 mg syringe kits	Yes	Yes (7 days maximum at room temp. not to exceed 77°F)	No	No	Yes	18 gauge, 5/8"	May be stored for up to 7 days in its unopened original packaging at room temp. use within 7 days or discard; allow to come to room temp 15 mins
Paliperidone Palmitate once monthly (Invega Sustenna®) <sup>7</sup>	39, 78, 117, 156, & 234 mg kits	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Gluteal all patients: 22 gauge, 1.5 " Deltoid: <90 kg: 23 gauge, 1" or ≥90 kg: 22 gauge, 1.5"	Resuspend if necessary before administering
Paliperidone Palmitate three months (Invega Trinza®) <sup>8</sup>	273, 410, 546, 819 mg kits	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Gluteal all patients: 22 gauge, 1 ½" Deltoid: <90 kg: 22 gauge, 1" ≥90 kg: 22 gauge, 1 ½"	Resuspend if necessary before administering; shake 15 seconds within 5 minutes of injecting
Olanzapine Pamoate (Zyprexa Relprevv®) <sup>9</sup>	210, 300, & 405 mg single-use kits	Yes	No	No	No	Yes (2" needle not included)	Non-obese: 19 gauge, 1.5" Obese: 19 gauge, 2"	24 hours after suspended; agitate vial before withdrawing and inject immediately
Aripiprazole Monohydrate (Abilify Maintena®) <sup>10</sup>	300, 400 mg pre-filled syringes; 300, 400 mg single-dose vials	Vials and Syringes (via the dual chamber syringe kit)- Yes	No	Yes (pre-filled syringes)	Yes	Yes	Gluteal, non-obese pts or Deltoid, obese patients: 22 gauge, 1.5" Gluteal, obese patients: 21 gauge, 2" Deltoid, non-obese pts: 23 gauge, 1"	Not stated, give injection immediately upon reconstituting; inject slowly, resuspend if necessary before administering
Aripiprazole Lauroxil nanocrystal technology (Aristada Initio®) <sup>11</sup>	675 mg pre-filled syringe	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Gluteal: 20 gauge, 1 ½", or 20 gauge, 2" Deltoid: 21 gauge, 1" or 20 gauge, 1 ½"	N/A
Aripiprazole Lauroxil (Aristada®) <sup>12</sup>	441, 662, 882, or 1064 mg pre-filled syringes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Gluteal all doses: 20 gauge, 1 ½" or 20 gauge, 2" Deltoid (441 mg only): 21 gauge, 1" or 20 gauge, 1 ½"	N/A

\* Prior to reconstitution

1. Fluphenazine Decanoate Injection, USP [package insert]. Rockford, IL: Mylan Institutional LLC; August 2018.
2. Jann MW, Ereshetsky L, Saklad SR. Clinical pharmacokinetics of the depot antipsychotics. *Clinical Pharmacokinetics* 1985;10(4):315-333.
3. [http://online.lexi.com/co/action/doc/retrieve/docid/patch\\_f/5432273](http://online.lexi.com/co/action/doc/retrieve/docid/patch_f/5432273); Accessed July 7, 2020.
4. McEvoy, JP. Risks versus benefits of different types of long-acting injectable antipsychotics. *J Clin Psych*. 2006;67[suppl 5]:15-18.
5. Haloperidol Decanoate Injection [package insert]. North Wales, PA: TEVA Pharmaceuticals, April 2019.
6. Risperdal Consta® [package insert]. Titusville, NJ: Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; January 2020.
7. Perseris® [package insert]. North Chesterfield, VA: Indivior, Inc; December 2019.
8. Invega Sustenna® [package insert]. Titusville, NJ: Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; January 2019.
9. Invega Trinza® [package insert]. Titusville, NJ: Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; January 2019.
10. Zyprexa Relprevv® [package insert]. Indianapolis, IN: Eli Lilly and Company; April 2020.
11. Abilify Maintena® [package insert]. Tokyo, Japan: Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co.,LTD.; June 2020.
12. Aristada Initio® [package insert]. Waltham, MA: Alkermes, Inc.; February 2020.
13. Aristada® [package insert]. Waltham, MA: Alkermes, Inc.; February 2020

## Dosing Parameters

Recommended dosing of FLUPHENAZINE DECANOATE based on oral dose

Daily Oral Dose of Fluphenazine	Dose of Fluphenazine Decanoate every three weeks
10 mg/day	12.5 mg/3 weeks

Recommended dosing of HALOPERIDOL DECANOATE based on oral dose

Patients	Monthly 1 <sup>st</sup> month	Maintenance after the 1 <sup>st</sup> Month
Stabilized on low daily oral doses (up to 10 mg/day), elderly or debilitated	10-15X daily oral dose; Maximum 100 mg 1 <sup>st</sup> injection, balance given in 3-7 days	10-15X previous daily oral dose
High dose, high risk or relapse, tolerant to oral haloperidol	20X daily oral dose	10-15X previous daily oral dose

Recommended dosing of RISPERIDONE LONG-ACTING INJECTION

All patients are recommended to start at 25 mg IM every two weeks 12.5 mg IM may be appropriate for some patients (e.g., renal or hepatic impairment) Do not combine different dosage strengths in a single administration
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Recommended dosing of RISPERIDONE "Extended Release"

Oral risperidone dose	Risperidone Extended Release
3 mg	90 mg/monthly
4 mg	120 mg/monthly
May not be recommended if oral risperidone dose < 3 mg or > 4 mg daily	

Recommended dosing of PALIPERIDONE PALMITATE EXTENDED-RELEASE INJECTABLE SUSPENSION based on oral dose or renal function

\*(Second initiation dose may be given ± 4 days of the one-week time after first injection)

\*\* (Recommended schizophrenia maintenance dose is 117 mg monthly, however may be adjusted according to available monthly doses and oral dose steady-state concentration information)

Daily oral dose of paliperidone palmitate extended-release	Initiation (Deltoid only)	Comparable paliperidone monthly injection doses resulting in similar steady-state concentrations for daily oral doses of paliperidone extended-release**
3 mg/day	Initiate with 234 mg IM on day 1 and 156 mg IM on day 8, monthly recommended maintenance dose of 117 mg given 5 weeks after first dose	78 mg
6 mg/day	Initiate with 234 mg IM on day 1 and 156 mg IM on day 8, monthly recommended maintenance dose of 117 mg given 5 weeks after first dose	117 mg
9 mg/day	Initiate with 234 mg IM on day 1 and 156 mg IM on day 8, monthly recommended maintenance dose of 117 mg given 5 weeks after first dose	156 mg
12 mg/day	Initiate with 234 mg IM on day 1 and 156 mg IM on day 8, monthly recommended maintenance dose of 117 mg given 5 weeks after first dose	234 mg
Mild renal impairment (CrCl ≥50 mL/min to < 80 mL/min)	Initiate with 156 mg IM on day 1 and 117 mg on day 8, recommended maintenance dose is 78 mg given 5 weeks after first dose	n/a

Recommended dosing for a Missed Second Initiation Dose of PALIPERIDONE PALMITATE ONCE MONTHLY

Timing of Missed Second Initiation Dose	Dosing
Less than 4 weeks since first injection	Administer the 2 <sup>nd</sup> initiation dose of 156 mg in the deltoid muscle as soon as possible. Recommend to administer a third injection of 117 (deltoid or gluteal) 5 weeks after the 1 <sup>st</sup> injection (regardless of the timing of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> injection). Resume regular monthly dosing.
4 to 7 weeks since 1 <sup>st</sup> injection	Resume dosing with two injections of 156 mg in the following manner: Administer a deltoid injection as soon as possible. Administer a second deltoid injection 1 week later. Resume regular monthly dosing.
More than 7 weeks since 1 <sup>st</sup> injection	Restart dosing with recommended initiation: Administer a 234 mg deltoid injection on Day 1. Administer a 156 mg deltoid injection 1 week later. Resume regular monthly dosing.

Recommended Management of a Missed Maintenance Dose of PALIPERIDONE PALMITATE ONCE MONTHLY

Timing of Missed Maintenance Dose	Dosing
4 to 6 weeks since last injection	Resume regular monthly dosing as soon as possible and continue monthly
More than 6 weeks to 6 months since last injection	Resume the same dose previously stabilized on (unless stabilized on a dose of 234 mg, then the first 2 injections should each be 156 mg) in the following manner: Administer a deltoid injection as soon as possible. Administer a second deltoid injection 1 week later at the same dose.

	Resume administering the previously stabilized dose 1 month after the second injection.
More than 6 months since last injection	Restart dosing with recommended initiation: Administer a 234 mg deltoid injection on Day 1. Administer a 156 mg deltoid injection 1 week later. Resume administering the previously stabilized dose 1 month after the second injection.

Recommended dosing of PALIPERIDONE PALMITATE EXTENDED-RELEASE every three-month INJECTABLE SUSPENSION based on PALIPERIDONE PALMITATE EXTENDED-RELEASE every month INJECTABLE SUSPENSION

Paliperidone palmitate extended-release dose	Paliperidone palmitate extended-release every three-month injectable suspension dose
78 mg/monthly	273 mg/3 months
117 mg/monthly	410 mg/3 months
156 mg/monthly	546 mg/3 months
234 mg/monthly	819 mg/3 months

Recommended dosing for re-initiation of PALIPERIDONE PALMITATE every three-month INJECTION

- Missed dose more than 3 ½ months but less than 4 months since last injection: dose should be administered as soon as possible, then resume with 3-month injections

Recommended dosing of PALIPERIDONE PALMITATE EXTENDED-RELEASE every three-month INJECTABLE SUSPENSION if 4-9 months Since Last Injection

If the last dose of paliperidone palmitate every three months was:	Administer Paliperidone Palmitate once monthly, two doses one week apart (into deltoid muscle)		Then administer paliperidone palmitate every three months (into deltoid or gluteal muscle)
	Day 1	Day 8	1 month after Day 8
273 mg	78 mg	78 mg	273 mg
410 mg	117 mg	117 mg	410 mg
546 mg	156 mg	156 mg	546 mg
819 mg	156 mg	156 mg	819 mg

- If more than 9 months since last injection: re-initiate treatment with the 1-month paliperidone palmitate extended-release.

Recommended dosing of OLANZAPINE PAMOATE EXTENDED-RELEASE INJECTABLE SUSPENSION based on oral dose

Target Oral Dose	Dose during first eight weeks	Maintenance dose after eight weeks
10 mg/day	210 mg/2 weeks or 405 mg/4 weeks	150 mg/2 weeks or 300 mg/4 weeks
15 mg/day	300 mg/2 weeks	210 mg/2 weeks or 405 mg/4 weeks
20 mg/day	300 mg/2 weeks	300 mg/2 weeks

Recommended dosing of ARIPIPRAZOLE LONG-ACTING INJECTION (DO NOT give sooner than 26 days)

All patients are recommended to start at 400 mg IM every month maintenance	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>300 mg IM monthly may be appropriate for some patients (e.g., strong CYP 2D6 or 3A4 inhibitors and previously on 400 mg; 2D6 poor metabolizer) or if patients experience adverse effects at a higher dose that were previously taking 400 mg</li> <li>200 mg IM monthly may be appropriate for some patients (e.g., CYP 2D6 poor metabolizers taking CYP3A4 inhibitors; concomitant use of CYP 2D6 and/or 3A4 inhibitors previously taking 400 mg; taking strong CYP 2D6 or 3A4 inhibitors and previously on 300 mg)</li> <li>160 mg IM monthly may be appropriate for some patients (e.g. taking CYP 2D6 and CYP 3A4 inhibitors) previously taking 300 mg</li> </ul>	

Recommended dosing for missed doses of ARIPIPRAZOLE LONG-ACTING INJECTION

If second and third doses are missed:	> 4 weeks and < 5 weeks since last injection	> 5 weeks since last injection
	Administer injection as soon as possible	Restart oral aripiprazole for 14 days with next injection
If fourth or additional doses are missed:	If > 4 weeks and < 6 weeks since last injection	If > 6 weeks since last injection
	Administer injection as soon as possible	Restart oral aripiprazole for 14 days with next injection

Recommended dosing of ARIPIPRAZOLE LAUROXIL NANOCRYSTAL TECHNOLOGY

<p><b>One day, single-dose regimen of the following:</b>  Administer one time: 30 mg oral aripiprazole  Administer one time: Aripiprazole lauroxil nanocrystal technology IM 675 mg injection (Before injection, tap vial 10 times and shake vigorously for 30 seconds, MUST inject RAPID and CONTINUOUS)  Administer: Aripiprazole lauroxil IM (441, 662, 882, 1064 mg) injection (may administer same day and up to 10 days after dose of aripiprazole nanocrystal formulation is administered)</p>
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Recommended dosing of ARIPIPRAZOLE LAUROXIL (AVOID injecting Aripiprazole Lauroxil Nanocrystal Technology and Aripiprazole Lauroxil in the same deltoid or gluteal muscle.)

Oral Aripiprazole Total Daily Dose	Intramuscular Aripiprazole Lauroxil Dose (Before injection, tap vial 10 times and shake vigorously for 30 seconds, MUST inject RAPID and CONTINUOUS)
10 mg per day	441 mg every month
15 mg per day	662 every month, 882 mg every 6 weeks, or 1064 mg every 2 months
20 mg or higher per day	882 mg every month

Recommended dosing for missed dose of Aripiprazole Lauroxil

Dose of pts. last aripiprazole lauroxil injection	Length of Time Since Last Injection		
	<6 weeks	> 6 and <=7 weeks	>7 weeks
441 mg	<6 weeks	>8 and <=12 weeks	>12 weeks
662 mg	<8 weeks	>8 and <=12 weeks	>12 weeks
882 mg	<8 weeks	>8 and <=12 weeks	>12 weeks
1064 mg	<10 weeks	>10 and <12 weeks	>12 weeks
Dosage and Administration for Re-initiation of Aripiprazole Lauroxil	No supplementation required	Supplement with a single dose of aripiprazole lauroxil nanocrystal technology OR 7 days of oral aripiprazole	Re-initiate with a single dose of aripiprazole lauroxil nanocrystal technology and a single dose of oral aripiprazole 30 mg OR supplement with 21 days of oral aripiprazole

Pharmacokinetic Parameters

	T1/2 (Single Dose)	T max
Fluphenazine Decanoate <sup>1,2,3</sup>	6.8-9.6 days up to 14.3 days	24 – 72 hours
Haloperidol Decanoate <sup>3,4,5</sup>	~16 to 21 days	6 days
Risperidone long-acting injection (Risperdal Consta®) <sup>6</sup>	3-6 days (note: medication not appreciably released for approximately 3 weeks after the injection)	4-6 weeks
Risperidone "Extended Release" (Perseris®) <sup>7</sup>	9-11 days	4-6 hours
Paliperidone Palmitate monthly (Invega Sustenna®) <sup>8</sup>	25-49 days	13 days
Paliperidone Palmitate three months (Invega Trinza®) <sup>9</sup>	84-95 days deltoid and 118-139 days gluteal	30-33 days
Olanzapine pamoate (Zyprexa Relprevv®) <sup>10</sup>	≈ 30 days	Within 1 week
Aripiprazole monohydrate (Abilify Maintena®) <sup>11</sup>	29.9-46.5 days gluteal	5-7 days gluteal; 4 days deltoid
Aripiprazole Lauroxil nanocrystal technology (Aristada Initio®) <sup>12</sup>	15-18 days	16-35 days
Aripiprazole Lauroxil (Aristada®) <sup>13</sup>	53.9-57.2 days	n/a

1. Fluphenazine Decanoate Injection, USP [package insert]. Rockford, IL: Mylan Institutional LLC; August 2018.
2. Jann MW, Ereshefsky L, Saklad SR. Clinical pharmacokinetics of the depot antipsychotics. *Clinical Pharmacokinetics* 1985;10(4):315-333.
3. [http://online.lexi.com/lco/action/doc/retrieve/docid/patch\\_f/5432273](http://online.lexi.com/lco/action/doc/retrieve/docid/patch_f/5432273); Accessed July 7, 2020.
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7. Perseris® [package insert]. North Chesterfield, VA: Indivior, Inc; December 2019.
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13. Aristada® [package insert]. Waltham, MA: Alkermes, Inc.; February 2020

### Long-Acting Antipsychotic Injections: Techniques and Considerations for Success

1. Select an environment for the injection process that maintains the dignity and privacy of the patient
2. Confirm the medication prescribed and time validity, dose, and method of administration
3. Check the patient's identity
4. Determine the desired injection site and confirm that the formulation is appropriate
5. Review the injection process with the patient and consent the patient to receiving the injection
6. Assess the body mass of the patient to aid in needle selection; ensuring the selected needle is appropriate for the formulation and desired injection site
7. Reconstitute (if necessary) and draw up the medication according to the product specific instructions
  - a. Consider a separate needle for drawing up and administering haloperidol and fluphenazine decanoate formulations (NOTE: do not substitute for needles provided with all kits)
  - b. Visually inspect the medication for clumps; additional taping and shaking may be necessary. If a suspended product is not used right away, it should be shaken vigorously to re-suspend. Suspension should be at room temperature prior to injecting.
8. For gluteal site injections:
  - a. Place the patient in the prone position with toes pointing inward
  - b. Select the injection site; preferably the ventrogluteal, which can be located by placing the heel of your opposing hand on the patient's greater trochanter (the bump of bone on the outside of the hip bone). The index finger of the hand is placed on the patient's anterior superior iliac spine and the middle finger is stretched dorsally towards but below the iliac crest (the thick curved upper border of the pelvic bone). The triangle formed by the index finger, the third finger and the crest of the ilium is the injection site.
  - c. Cleanse the injection site with an alcohol wipe and allow the skin to dry for 30 seconds
  - d. Z-track technique if indicated
  - e. Position the needle close to the skin at the dorsogluteal site
  - f. Insert the needle quickly and smoothly at an angle of approximately 90 degrees
  - g. Aspirate for blood- if blood present then discard the needle and restart again
  - h. Inject the medication
  - i. Withdraw the needle rapidly and apply pressure to any bleeding point
  - j. Do not massage the injection site
  - k. Apply bandage
  - l. Dispose of sharps and biohazard material appropriately and do not recap the needle

#### References:

1. Gray R, Spilling R, Burgess D, et al. Antipsychotic long-acting injections in clinical practice: medication management and patient choice. *Br J Psychiatry*. 2009;52:S51-56.
2. Cocoman A, Murray J. Intramuscular injections; a review of best practices for mental health nurses. *J Psychiatr Ment Health Nurs*. 2008;15(5):424-434.
3. Wynaden D, Landsborough I, McGowan S, et al. Best practice guidelines for the administration of intramuscular injections in the mental health setting. *Int J Ment Health Nurs*. 2006;15(3):195-200.

Disclaimer: This pocket card is provided as a resource from an educational symposium and should not replace FDA-approved medication information provided in product labeling.

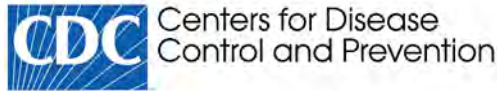


## **SMI Resources on COVID-19**

<https://smiadviser.org/about/covid>

### **What are clinical considerations for giving LAIs during the COVID-19 public health emergency?**

[https://smiadviser.org/knowledge\\_post/what-are-clinical-considerations-for-giving-lais-during-the-covid-19-public-health-emergency](https://smiadviser.org/knowledge_post/what-are-clinical-considerations-for-giving-lais-during-the-covid-19-public-health-emergency)



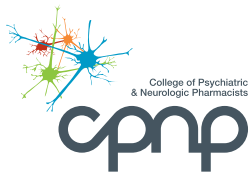
### **Guidance for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians in Community Pharmacies during the COVID-19 Response**

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/pharmacies.html?mc\\_cid=da8dd2a832&mc\\_eid=fc06f9c68b](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/pharmacies.html?mc_cid=da8dd2a832&mc_eid=fc06f9c68b)



### **Use of Long-Acting Injectables as a Clinically Necessary Treatment**

<https://www.psychiatry.org/File%20Library/Psychiatrists/APA-Guidance-Long-Acting-Injectables-COVID-19.pdf>



### **Coronavirus COVID-19 Resources**

<https://cpnp.org/guideline/covid-19>

### **Psychiatric Pharmacy Essentials: Long-acting Injectable Antipsychotics**

<https://cpnp.org/guideline/essentials/lai>



### **Guide to Long-acting Medications (LAMs)**

<https://www.thenationalcouncil.org/topics/long-acting-medications/>





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