HERTFORDSHIRE MEDICINES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (HMMC)

ARIPIPRAZOLE LONG ACTING INJECTION FOR THE TREATMENT OF SCHIZOPHRENIA
RECOMMENDED FOR RESTRICTED USE

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<th>What it is</th>
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<td>Aripiprazole (Abilify Maintena®)</td>
<td>Antipsychotic depot injection</td>
<td>Maintenance treatment of schizophrenia in adult patients (≥18yrs) stabilised on oral aripiprazole</td>
<td>July 2014</td>
<td>Final</td>
<td>NICE - No Guidance SMC – accepted for use</td>
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**HMMC Recommendation:**

**RECOMMENDED FOR RESTRICTED USE AS AN ANTIPSYCHOTIC DEPOT INJECTION OPTION:**

For patients stabilised on oral aripiprazole when a depot injection is indicated as per NICE CG178 recommendations and in line with HPFT Preferred Prescribing Choices of Antipsychotic Drugs Policy.

To be initiated by specialists within Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (HPFT). Prescribing responsibility to be retained in most cases by HPFT. GP practices that already prescribe antipsychotic depot injections may consider taking on prescribing responsibility for stable patients under shared care guidelines.

This place in therapy to be reviewed in the event of a generic risperidone depot preparation becoming available.

**NICE Clinical Guideline 178 (Feb 2014): Schizophrenia recommendations:**

- Consider offering depot/long-acting injectable antipsychotic medication to people with schizophrenia:
  - who would prefer such treatment after an acute episode;
  - where avoiding covert non-adherence (either intentional or unintentional) to antipsychotic medication is a clinical priority within the treatment plan’.
- When initiating depot/long-acting injectable antipsychotic medication:
  - take into account the service user’s preferences and attitudes towards the mode of administration (regular intramuscular injections) and organisational procedures (for example, home visits and location of clinics)
  - take into account the same criteria recommended for the use of oral antipsychotic medication particularly in relation to the risks and benefits of the drug regimen
  - initially use a small test dose as set out in the BNF or SPC.

The guideline does not include specific guidance on choice of depot or long-acting injectable antipsychotic medication.

This HMMC recommendation is based upon the evidence available at the time of publication. The recommendation will be reviewed upon request in the light of new evidence becoming available.
### Efficacy
- 2 placebo controlled RCTs (n=1065) showed aripiprazole LAI was non-inferior to oral aripiprazole and superior to placebo in delaying time to impending relapse and reducing relapse rates. All patients were stabilised on long term oral aripiprazole.
- There are currently no studies comparing aripiprazole LAI with other long acting antipsychotic injections.

### Safety
- The overall adverse effect profile of aripiprazole LAI appears to be similar to that of oral aripiprazole although injection site pain, extrapyramidal side effects and neutropenia were more frequent (2.3% vs 0.8%).
- Common adverse reactions include insomnia, headache, akathisia, weight gain (increased & decreased), nasopharyngitis and anxiety.
- Dose to be reduced to 300mg once monthly in the event of adverse reactions.

### Cost
- Monthly cost of aripiprazole LAI is £220. Monthly cost of other approved LAIs range from £159 to £393. Aripiprazole LAI has a lower cost than paliperidone LAI and the medium to high dose of risperidone LAI but is more expensive than the lowest dose of risperidone LAI.
- The patent for risperidone LAI expires in 2014. Due to the complexity of the technology it is uncertain if lower cost generic products will then become available.
- The patent for oral aripiprazole expires in Oct 2104.

### Patient Factors
- Aripiprazole LAI is administered monthly compared to every 2 weeks for risperidone LAI which would reduce clinic visits.
- There is no published data to evaluate the effect of injection frequency on patient adherence.

### References
- SPC Aripiprazole (Abilify maintena®) [http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/medicine/28494](http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/medicine/28494)

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