



# Alzheimer's Disease Treatment Clinic

The Alzheimer's Disease Treatment Clinic is a program designed to support you and your extended therapy management if you are eligible for new medications such as lecanemab, approved by the Food and Drug Administration in 2023.

Providers from cognitive/behavioral neurology, radiology, infusion therapy, neuropsychology, and others form a multidisciplinary care team to address your individual needs.

## POTENTIAL BENEFITS

New therapies like lecanemab are given through IV infusions to treat the presence of a protein in your brain called amyloid- $\beta$ , which is thought to be a key factor in the development of Alzheimer's disease. Although it does not cure the disease, the goal of these therapies is to slow the progression of cognitive decline in the mild stages of Alzheimer's disease.

## RISKS

There are possible risks with therapies which remove amyloid from your brain including brain swelling and brain bleeding. These are called amyloid-related imaging abnormalities, also known as ARIA. Although you may not have symptoms from ARIA, if not found and cared for promptly ARIA can cause

neurological symptoms which could range from mild to severe including the risk of death. Some risk factors for ARIA are known, which may influence whether these therapies are the best fit for you.

## EVALUATION

To evaluate whether you are eligible for the new therapies, your health care provider may order the following:

- MRI and/or PET scans of brain
- Blood tests
- Neuropsychological testing
- Lumbar puncture
- Genetic testing

## ELIGIBILITY

In addition to other criteria, eligibility for therapies like lecanemab requires that you are confirmed to be in the early symptomatic stages of Alzheimer's disease.

You may be ineligible for these drugs if:

- You are on a blood-thinning medication such as warfarin or have a known bleeding disorder.
- You have had a brain bleed.
- You have certain brain MRI findings indicating a high risk for side effects with these therapies.

- You have a pacemaker or other reasons limiting the ability to obtain MRI scans.
- You have a neurological or general medical condition that could affect your safety (ex: heart, gastrointestinal, kidney, rheumatological).

There are other requirements if you wish to be directly prescribed these infusions by Mayo Clinic providers.

- Commitment to regular IV infusions (every 2 weeks for lecanemab).
- Regular tests and visits during your long-term course of treatment. These will include MRI scans.
- Reliable care partner who can attend all visits with you.
- Site-specific geographic restrictions for drug administration are necessary due to the need for regular safety monitoring and frequency of drug administration.

Your provider will explain treatment options and additional recommendations based on your evaluation.

[Learn more online at mayoclinic.org](https://www.mayoclinic.org)