

April 18, 2023

Re: April 20, 2023] Medicaid DUR Board; Ensuring Equitable Access to Leqembi®

Dear Board members:

I am writing today on behalf of the Alzheimer's Association to ask that the Nevada Drug Utilization Review Board make a coverage decision that allows equitable access to Medicaid coverage for Leqembi® at the next meeting. The Alzheimer's Association asks the Board to recommend access to Leqembi that follows the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved label. Each day without access to the drug, the Alzheimer's Association estimates more than 2,000 individuals aged 65 or older transition from mild dementia due to Alzheimer's to a more advanced stage of the disease where they will no longer be eligible for Leqembi. Therefore, missing the opportunity to see improved outcomes or clinical benefits at the early stages of their disease progression.

As you are aware, lecanemab (Leqembi) [received](#) accelerated approval from the FDA in January 2023 as a treatment for early stage Alzheimer's disease. Leqembi is the second in a new category of medications approved for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease that target the fundamental pathophysiology of the disease. This medication represents an important advancement in the ongoing fight to effectively treat Alzheimer's disease. On behalf of those living with Alzheimer's disease and their families, the Alzheimer's Association [continues](#) to call on regulating bodies to provide access to monoclonal antibodies targeting amyloid for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease, including Leqembi.

The Alzheimer's Association leads the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia — by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support. As the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research, the Alzheimer's Association is dedicated to promoting care considerations that lead to improved patient outcomes and committed to ensuring that evidence-based practices for the diagnosis and care of Alzheimer's disease are available to all individuals living with Alzheimer's.

Currently [more](#) than 49,000 individuals in Nevada are living with Alzheimer's disease, and over 84,000 family members and friends are providing care to their loved ones. On behalf of those living with Alzheimer's disease and their families, the Alzheimer's Association asks that the Nevada Drug Utilization Review Board allow equitable access to Leqembi. As an FDA-approved treatment for people with early-stage Alzheimer's, access to coverage should be available to Nevada Medicaid beneficiaries living with this disease. Ensuring access to this new treatment may mean prolonging the earliest stages of this disease, prior to significant cognitive and functional decline.

Sincerely,

Charles Duarte
Director of Public Policy and Advocacy
Alzheimer's Association - Nevada Chapters