

NCPE Assessment

Plain English Summary

October, 2026

Drug name: Lecanemab
(pronounced leh-KAN-eh-mab) for the treatment of adult patients with a clinical diagnosis of Early Alzheimer's (mild cognitive impairment or mild dementia due to Alzheimer's disease) who are apolipoprotein E ϵ 4 (APOE ϵ 4) non-carriers or heterozygotes with confirmed amyloid pathology.

Brand name: Leqembi®

HTA ID: 24052

What is the NCPE?

The National Centre for Pharmacoeconomics (NCPE) is a team of experts who look at the health benefits and costs of medicines. The HSE asks us to advise on whether or not a new medicine is good value for money. We give unbiased advice to help the HSE provide the most effective, safe and cost-effective (value for money) treatments for patients.

How do we make our recommendations?

Our main focus is on the health benefits and cost effectiveness of a medicine. We look at the wider costs and health benefits associated with a new medicine, for example:

- Does the new medicine work better than other treatments available in Ireland?
- Is the new medicine easier to give or easier to take compared with other treatments available in Ireland?
- Does the new medicine reduce the need for patients to be hospitalised?
- Does the new medicine improve the quality of a patient's life over other treatments available in Ireland?
- Will the new medicine save resources elsewhere within the health system?

We review the information from clinical trials along with the cost and value for money data presented by the pharmaceutical company. We ask doctors and other healthcare professionals for advice about any health benefits of the new medicine compared with current treatments. We also ask patient organisations to send us their views on how the new drug may improve patients' day-to-day experience of living with a disease.

What is lecanemab used for?

Lecanemab is a medicine for treating adults with Early Alzheimer's disease (mild cognitive impairment (memory and thinking problems) and mild dementia due to Alzheimer's disease). It is for use in people who carry none or only one copy of ApoE4 gene variant.

What recommendation has the NCPE made to the HSE?

We have recommended that the HSE should consider not funding lecanemab. The HSE will consider our recommendation and make the final decision about reimbursement (funding). When making the funding decision, the HSE will also consider the additional [criteria](#) outlined in the Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Act 2013.

We have received a Patient Organisation Submission from the Alzheimer Society of Ireland about lecanemab and shared it with the HSE. This submission will form part of the data that the HSE considers.

Why did we make this recommendation?

After reviewing the data presented by the pharmaceutical company for lecanemab, we recommend that the HSE consider not providing this medicine. Evidence suggests that lecanemab has only a small effect on slowing the loss of cognition in patients with Early Alzheimer's disease, as compared to placebo. Adverse events associated with lecanemab include ARIA-E (temporary swelling or fluid build-up in the brain tissue) and ARIA-H (tiny brain bleeds). Lecanemab has not been shown to be cost effective at any price.

The HSE considers a number of factors along with our recommendation when deciding whether to provide this medicine. These factors are listed in the Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Act 2013.

Next steps

When the HSE receives our recommendation, it will look at all the relevant data about lecanemab. The HSE makes the final decision on reimbursement.

Where can I get more information?

You can get more information about lecanemab from the following online options:

- the NCPE Summary Document
- Lecanemab European Public Assessment Report (EPAR) – [Summary for the public](#)

- searching for lecanemab on our website (www.ncpe.ie);
- searching for lecanemab on the European Medicines Agency (EMA) website (www.ema.europa.eu).

Please refer to the NCPE website for updated information on the reimbursement status of this medicine