CONWAY REGIONAL
NEUROSCIENCE CENTER

## Leqembi® & Kisunla™ Treatment

### Frequently Asked Questions

**What are Leqembi and Kisunla?**
These FDA-approved Alzheimer's treatments work by clearing amyloid protein from the brain to slow cognitive decline. They are not a cure, but they help patients stay at their current stage of the disease longer.

**Who qualifies for treatment?**
Patients must have Alzheimer's confirmed by an amyloid PET scan or spinal fluid test and be in stage 3 or 4. Eligible ages are 50–90. Patients cannot be on anticoagulants.

**What are stages 3 and 4 of Alzheimer's?**
**Stage 3** involves mild cognitive impairment that begins to affect complex tasks but does not impair independence.

**Stage 4** marks mild dementia, with more noticeable deficits in daily functioning, though patients can still perform basic self-care.

**Where are the infusions administered?**
Conway Regional Medical Center – Short Stay Outpatient Unit (SSOU), located on the first floor. Phone: 501-513-5478.

**How often are infusions given?**
Leqembi® is administered every 2 weeks for 18 months. Kisunla™ is adminstered every 4 weeks for 18 months.

**How long does each appointment take?**
Infusions typically take about 1 hour, plus monitoring.
1st infusion: 2-hour observation
2nd infusion: 1-hour observation
All others: 30 minutes or less

**Will I receive pre-medications?**
Acetaminophen and loratadine are given before each infusion to reduce side effects and lower the chance of an allergic reaction.

**What are the infusion-related side effects?**
About 25% of patients experience mild, temporary symptoms such as headache, fever, fatigue, or body aches. These usually improve after the first few treatments.

**What if I need to miss or delay a treatment?**
Delays are common and acceptable. We will reschedule as needed.
Leqembi: Delay <1 week → continue schedule; ≥1 week → schedule resets
Kisunla: Delay <2 weeks → continue schedule; ≥2 weeks → schedule resets

**What happens after 18 months of IV therapy?**
Leqembi offers maintenance therapy with either monthly IV infusions or weekly at-home injections to prevent amyloid from returning. Kisunla currently has no maintenance option.

**What is ARIA and what is my risk?**
ARIA (Amyloid-Related Imaging Abnormalities) is a potential complication involving temporary brain swelling (ARIA-E) or small areas of bleeding (ARIA-H). It occurs more often in patients on treatment than in those not receiving therapy. APOE genetic testing helps estimate individual risk—one APOE4 gene indicates moderate risk; two indicate higher risk.

**How will I know if I have ARIA?**
Most ARIA is asymptomatic and detected only by MRI. When symptoms occur, they may include headache, dizziness, confusion, or imbalance and typically resolve as the brain heals. Treatment may be paused if symptoms appear.

**What is the MRI monitoring schedule?**
MRIs are done at months 1, 2, 3, 6, 12, and 18. ARIA is most likely to occur in the first 3–6 months, which is why early imaging is more frequent.

**Can I continue my other medications?**
Most medications, including oral Alzheimer's drugs, may be continued. Avoid blood thinners such as warfarin, Eliquis®, Xarelto®, Pradaxa®, heparin, and Lovenox®. Antiplatelet medications like aspirin and Plavix are allowed.

**Can I get vaccines or have surgery during treatment?**
All vaccinations, immunizations, and surgical procedures are permitted.

**Will my insurance cover treatment, and is assistance available?**
Most plans cover these medications. Medicare typically approves coverage; secondary insurers and Medicare Advantage plans may take longer. If there are out-of-pocket costs, you will be notified before starting therapy. Assistance programs are available.

Approximate cost before insurance:
Leqembi- $1,200 per infusion
Kisunla- $2,400 per infusion

**What is the insurance approval process?**
The neurology/memory clinic works with CRMC's prior-authorization team to submit all necessary test results and documentation. Approval usually takes 6–12 weeks. SSOU will notify you directly and schedule your treatments once approval is received.

**Will there be ongoing monitoring?**
Clinic visits and cognitive testing continue throughout treatment to monitor safety and track progress.