

Depot injections

This leaflet is about depot injections for antipsychotic medicine



What is a depot injection?

A depot injection is a slow-release form of medicine.

This means that the medicine lasts longer in your body.

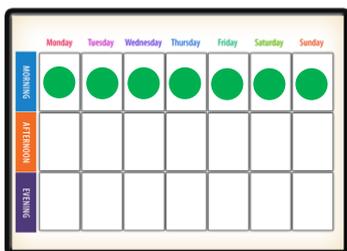
The medication used in depot injections is the same as other forms of the medicine, such as tablets or liquid.



Why choose a depot?

A depot injection might be a good option for you if

- you find it difficult to swallow medication
- you find it hard to remember to take medication regularly
- you prefer not to have to think about taking medication every day.





You may also be given a depot injection if your doctor or nurse agree that you need the medicine, but think you may find it hard to take it regularly in a different form.



You will usually only be offered a depot injection if

- you've already been on your medication for a while
- you know it's working well for you
- you expect to keep taking it for a long time.

How are depot injections given?



Depending on the type of medicine, injections are usually given:

- once every 2 weeks
- once every 3 weeks
- once every 4 weeks



Your injection will be given by a healthcare professional in a community setting

For example

- in a clinic
- in a medical centre
- in your own home

You will **not** be given a depot injection to use at home by yourself



Injections are given into large muscles.
For example:

- your upper arm
- your buttock

Some types of antipsychotic medicine may need to be injected into a certain muscle

The injection site will change each time

For example, into your left arm this month, and your right arm next month

Potential depot injection risks



It is important to remember that all medicines have potential risks

Your medicine and how you take it should be discussed with the Doctor, so you can think about the benefits and the risks



If you regularly have your injection in the same place in your body, you may start to experience problems with that part of your body

This may include

- abscess (a painful collection of pus)
- bleeding
- bruising
- irritation
- lumps
- numbness
- pain
- redness
- soreness
- swelling



If you have problems with your injection site, make sure you mention this to your doctor, nurse or whoever gives your injection

What other things do I need to think about?

 <p>Pharmacy</p>	<p>Can you pick up the prescription from the Pharmacy, or will your community nurse help with this?</p>
	<p>If your injection is not given or is forgotten, you should tell someone right away</p>
	<p>You should carry on with your injections even if you feel better</p>
	<p>You should talk to your doctor before stopping your medication</p>
	<p>If you have preferences on who gives the injection (for example, the Nurse's gender), please feel free to discuss this</p>
	<p>If you would prefer to have someone with you during your injection, please let your Nurse know</p>

Where can I get more information?



Read the patient information leaflet for your medicine – this should be in the box

Or ask for easy read information about your medicine



Speak to your **community nurse**



Speak to your **doctor**



Speak to someone on the CLDS Duty desk:

- Phone: **020 79 74 37 37**



- Address: **5 Pancras Square
London N1C 4AG**



- Web: [How to get help from CLDS - Camden Council](#)