

Alzheimer Society of Toronto responds to latest draft recommendation on lecanemab reimbursement

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The Alzheimer Society of Toronto welcomes Canada's Drug Agency's draft recommendation to reimburse lecanemab through public drug plans for people living with mild cognitive impairment and early-stage Alzheimer's disease.

*"For individuals in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease and the people who care for them, every opportunity to maintain independence and quality of life matters," said **Dave Spedding, CEO, Alzheimer Society of Toronto.** "This draft recommendation marks meaningful progress, but access to treatment is only one part of the journey. People also need timely diagnosis, specialized assessment, ongoing monitoring, and strong community-based supports to help them navigate what comes next."*

While this draft recommendation is an important milestone, it does not guarantee access. If approved for public reimbursement, eligible individuals will still require timely diagnosis, specialist assessment, genetic testing, and ongoing monitoring to safely receive treatment. Delivering these therapies will require continued investment in clinical capacity, diagnostic services, health-care infrastructure, and coordinated care pathways across Ontario.

At the same time, treatment is only one aspect of dementia care. Thousands of people living with dementia and their care partners will continue to rely on counselling, education, navigation services, support groups, and community programs regardless of whether they are eligible for medication.

"Scientific advances bring hope, but they must be matched by investments that ensure people can access the care, information, and support they need throughout their dementia journey," added Spedding. "Our goal is to ensure every person affected by dementia has access to compassionate, equitable care—whether that includes emerging treatments or the essential community services that help people live well."

The Alzheimer Society of Toronto will continue to advocate for equitable access to new therapies alongside sustained investment in dementia care, public education, care navigation, and support services so that scientific progress delivers meaningful benefits for people living with dementia and their families.