

**Leqvio is a biologic therapy that is indicated to treat:**

- [Atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease \(ASCVD\)](#)

### **What Is Leqvio?**

Leqvio is an injectable prescription medication that the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) has approved for reducing high levels of LDL-C in the blood. Leqvio reduces the amount of low-density lipoprotein cholesterol in the body by preventing the liver from producing proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin, type 9 (PCSK9). In high amounts, this protein alters the body's ability to remove bad cholesterol.

FDA-approved inclisiran is making a difference for men and women who continue to struggle with high cholesterol levels, including those with inherited HeFH, despite taking traditional prescription medications for lowering LDL-C.

### **Leqvio, explained:**

Leqvio is a siRNA (small interfering RNA) that is directed to proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin, type 9 mRNA. This PCSK9 protein can inhibit the body's ability to remove LDL-C. Therefore, by targeting this protein and stopping its production, inclisiran injections allow for an increase in the hepatic uptake of low-density lipoprotein cholesterol, thus giving the body the ability to remove more LDL-C from the blood.

Studies indicate that when patients use inclisiran in conjunction with other cholesterol medications and while following a healthy diet, the amount of low-density lipoprotein cholesterol present in the body decreases.

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### **What Is Leqvio Used For?**

Some people have high levels of LDL-C to heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia (HeFH), which is a genetic condition that results in an individual retaining a high LDL-C level. Unfortunately, even with cholesterol-lowering medications like statins, many of the men and women suffering with high LDL-C have yet to reach their recommended LDL-C level. Inclisiran is also used to treat people who have high cholesterol and clinical [atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease \(ASCVD\)](#).

Although inclisiran can help reduce the levels of low-density lipoprotein cholesterol in the body, it is unknown whether this medication can effectively decrease the risk of health problems resulting from high cholesterol (such as stroke or heart attack). More information will be available when the clinical trials studying Leqvio are completed.

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## Inclisiran Administration and Dosage

Leqvio is a colorless to pale yellow solution that is available in a single, pre-filled syringe. Each pre-filled syringe contains a single dose of 284 mg/1.5 mL (189 mg/mL). Healthcare professionals administer this

284 mg of inclisiran as a single, subcutaneous injection into the patient's upper arm, thigh, or abdominal area.

## Inclisiran Dosing Schedule

Following the initial 284 mg/1.5 mL injection, the patient returns in three months for a second injection of Leqvio (284 mg/1.5 mL). After these two initial injections, the patient maintains his or her cholesterol by continuing to receive inclisiran injections of 284 mg/1.5 mL every six months.

## Missed Doses

If a patient misses a scheduled dose of Leqvio – and it has been less than three months since the missed dose – the regular dosing schedule resumes after the healthcare professional administers the missed dose.

If a patient misses a scheduled dose of inclisiran by more than three months, the patient's dosing scheduling must be adjusted, returning to the initial protocol. Following the administration of the missed dose, the patient returns in three months for another dose, and then every six months thereafter.

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## Leqvio Side Effects

All medications have side effects. Leqvio is no different; however, [inclisiran side effects](#) are usually quite mild.

Some of the most common side effects following an inclisiran injection includes:

- A reaction at the injection site (e.g., redness, pain, development of a rash)
- A urinary tract infection
- Joint pain
- Diarrhea
- Shortness of breath
- Leg or arm pain
- A chest cold

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## How To Prepare for a Leqvio Injection

There are no special preparation instructions to follow before an inclisiran injection. If your doctor has provided you with special instructions, be sure to follow them for the best results.