

Société Alzheimer Society

CANADA

May 1, 2026

Alzheimer Society of Canada's Response to Health Canada's Approval of Donanemab

The Alzheimer Society of Canada welcomes Health Canada's approval of donanemab for people diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment or early-stage Alzheimer's disease. We acknowledge the careful, thorough review Health Canada undertook to assess the treatment's safety and efficacy.

This decision marks a significant advancement in the treatment of Alzheimer's disease, introducing a second approved therapy in Canada designed to target the underlying biology of the condition.

"Today's authorization of Kinsula™ (donanemab) is a hopeful milestone for people living with early Alzheimer's and their care partners. While not a cure, it shows how far we've come and why research and advocacy matter. Together with our partners across Canada, we remain focused on ensuring people can access new treatments alongside the practical supports they need to navigate what comes next." Christina Scicluna, CEO Alzheimer Society of Canada

Clinical trials indicated the potential to slow decline in memory, thinking and daily functioning for some people in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease. For people living with dementia and their care partners, even modest slowing of progression can mean more time maintaining independence, participating in daily life and preserving quality of life.

The approval of disease-modifying therapies signals an important shift in how Alzheimer's disease is treated and understood. As new treatments emerge, ensuring system readiness will be critical so that Canadians can benefit fully from these innovations.

While regulatory approval is an important step, it does not automatically guarantee public coverage. Canada's Drug Agency (CDA-AMC) will now assess whether donanemab should be funded by provincial and territorial drug plans. After this assessment, each jurisdiction will make its own decisions regarding pricing and reimbursement. In Canada, it can take up to two years after regulatory approval for new medicines to become publicly covered, while



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people with private or extended health benefits often gain access more quickly. The Alzheimer Society of Canada encourages a coordinated reimbursement process so that scientific progress can translate into timely and equitable access for all Canadians.

As Canada prepares for the introduction of new Alzheimer's disease therapies, ensuring system readiness will be essential. The drug is administered intravenously and requires ongoing monitoring through MRI imaging. Canadians will benefit fully only if they have timely access to diagnosis, appropriate imaging and health-care teams trained to manage these treatments.

The Alzheimer Society of Canada is committed to advocating for the changes needed to improve system readiness while working with Alzheimer Societies across the country to provide trusted information, services and supports for people living with dementia and their care partners.



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