



BC PharmaCare

YourVoice Drug Information

BC PharmaCare is reviewing the medications used to treat Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).

[PharmaCare](#) is a government-funded drug plan that helps British Columbians with the cost of eligible prescription drugs and specific medical supplies.

PharmaCare reviews each drug for treating a specific illness or medical condition (known as an *indication*). If a decision is made to cover the drug, it will be only for that indication.

In some cases, PharmaCare may cover a drug only for people who have the illness or condition and have not responded to other drugs used for that indication.

Information about the drug	
<p>Generic/scientific name (BRAND NAME), by Manufacturer</p>	<p>The drugs included in this review are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acclidinium bromide (TUDORZA® GENUAIR®), by AstraZeneca Canada Inc. • Acclidinium bromide-formoterol fumarate (DUAKLIR® GENUAIR®), by AstraZeneca Canada Inc. • Beclomethasone dipropionate (QVAR™), by Valeant Canada LP • Budesonide (PULMICORT® TURBUHALER®), by AstraZeneca Canada Inc. • Budesonide-formoterol fumarate (SYMBICORT® TURBUHALER®), by AstraZeneca Canada Inc. • Ciclesonide (ALVESCO®), by AstraZeneca Canada Inc. • Fluticasone furoate (ARNUITY ELLIPTA), by GlaxoSmithKline Inc. • Fluticasone furoate-vilanterol (BREQ ELLIPTA), by GlaxoSmithKline Inc. • Fluticasone furoate-umeclidinium-vilanterol (TRELEGY ELLIPTA), by GlaxoSmithKline Inc. • Fluticasone propionate (FLOVENT HFA and FLOVENT DISKUS) by GlaxoSmithKline Inc. and (AERMONY RESPICLICK™) by Teva Canada Limited • Fluticasone propionate-salmeterol (ADVAIR, ADVAIR DISKUS) by GlaxoSmithKline Inc. and (ARBESDA RESPICLICK™) by Teva Canada Limited • Formoterol fumarate (FORADIL) by Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc. and (OXEZE® TURBUHALER®) by AstraZeneca Canada Inc. • Glycopyrronium bromide (SEEBRI® BREEZHALER®), by Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc. • Indacaterol maleate (ONBREZ® BREEZHALER®), by Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc. • Indacaterol-glycopyrronium (ULTIBRO® BREEZHALER®), by Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc. • Mometasone furoate (ASMANEX® TWISTHALER®), by Merck Canada Inc. • Mometasone furoate-formoterol (ZENHALE®), by Merck Canada Inc. • Salmeterol xinafoate (SEREVENT® DISKHALER® and SEREVENT® DISKUS®), by GlaxoSmithKline Inc. • Tiotropium (SPIRIVA® and SPIRIVA® RESPIMAT®), by Boehringer Ingelheim Canada Ltd. • Tiotropium-olodaterol (INSPIOLTO™ RESPIMAT®), by Boehringer Ingelheim (Canada) Ltd. • Umeclidinium (INCRUSE ELLIPTA), by GlaxoSmithKline Inc. • Umeclidinium-vilanterol (ANORO ELLIPTA), by GlaxoSmithKline Inc.

Information about the drug	
Indication	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
Has the drug been reviewed by the Common Drug Review (CDR)? The CDR is a national organization that reviews drugs on behalf of Canadian public sector plans when manufacturers want the jurisdictions to provide coverage for the drugs.	<p>Some of these drugs have been reviewed by the CDR for use in the treatment of COPD, and can be found searching the CADTH CDR Reports, or by using the links below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aclidinium bromide (TUDORZA® GENUAIR®) completed April 2014 • Aclidinium bromide-formoterol fumarate (DUAKLIR® GENUAIR®) completed September 2015 • Fluticasone furoate-vilanterol (BREQ ELLIPTA) completed August 2014 • Fluticasone furoate-umeclidinium-vilanterol (TRELEGY ELLIPTA), completed August 2018 • Glycopyrronium bromide (SEEBRI® BREEZHALER®) completed May 2013 • Indacaterol maleate (ONBREZ® BREEZHALER®) completed August 2012 • Indacaterol-glycopyrronium (ULTIBRO® BREEZHALER®) completed December 2014 • Tiotropium (SPIRIVA® RESPIMAT®) completed July 2015 • Tiotropium-olodaterol (INSPIOLTO™ RESPIMAT®) completed December 2015 • Umeclidinium (INCRUSE ELLIPTA) completed September 2015 • Umeclidinium-vilanterol (ANORO ELLIPTA) completed January 2015
Public input start date	February 27, 2019
Public input closing date	March 27, 2019 at midnight
How is the drug taken?	These medications are taken by inhaling a powder or mist through the mouth and into lungs using an inhaler device.
How often is the drug taken?	Most of these drugs are taken once or twice per day.
General drug and/or drug study information	<p>COPD is a condition characterized by chronic inflammation of lung tissue, leading to increasing difficulty with breathing. COPD can be managed by certain medications, used either alone or in combination.</p> <p>There are a few main types of COPD drugs, and each works in a different way.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Short acting drugs such as Short Acting Beta₂ Agonists and Short Acting Muscarinic Antagonists are used to relieve symptoms and quickly open airways. They are often used in the mild stages of COPD or as additional therapy for all patients. 2. Long Acting Muscarinic Antagonists (LAMAs) block certain chemical receptors in the cells of the lung tissues, allowing the muscles to relax and open the airways, as well as prevent some mucus production for 12–24 hours. 3. Long Acting Beta₂ Agonists (LABAs) activate certain chemical receptors in the cells of the lung tissues, allowing the muscles to relax and open the airways, and prevent allergic-type reactions for 12–24 hours. 4. Inhaled Corticosteroids (ICS) bind to certain chemical receptors in the cells of the lung tissues and both prevent and reduce inflammation. <p>Because these drugs work differently, they are sometimes used in combination to reduce inflammation and constriction of the airways to improve breathing.</p>

Information about the drug	
	<p>Only long-acting drugs and combinations of more than one drug are currently being reviewed by PharmaCare. Short-acting inhalers are not included in this review.</p> <p>Most studies of these drugs looked at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in forced expiratory volume (a measure of the amount of air leaving the lungs while breathing out, as an indicator of overall lung function) • Impact on health-related quality of life • Patient-reported symptoms, using specific scales or scores • Occurrence or time to COPD exacerbations (when symptoms become worse than usual for a period of time) • Hospitalizations • Disease progression • Bad reactions • Serious bad reactions • Patients leaving the trial

COST OF THE DRUGS UNDER REVIEW			
Drug	PharmaCare Status (if and how the drug is covered)	Usual Dose	Annual Cost of Therapy
Long Acting Muscarinic Antagonists (LAMAs)			
Aclidinium bromide (TUDORZA GENUAIR)	Limited Coverage (available to those who meet specific criteria)	1 inhalation twice daily	\$698
Glycopyrronium bromide (SEEBRI BREEZHALER)	Limited Coverage (available to those who meet specific criteria)	1 inhalation once daily	\$698
Tiotropium (SPIRIVA)	Limited Coverage (available to those who meet specific criteria)	1 inhalation once daily	\$696
Tiotropium (SPIRIVA RESPIMAT)	Limited Coverage (available to those who meet specific criteria)	2 inhalations once daily	\$696
Umeclidinium (INCRUSE ELLIPTA)	Limited Coverage (available to those who meet specific criteria)	1 inhalation once daily	\$657

COST OF THE DRUGS UNDER REVIEW			
Drug	PharmaCare Status (if and how the drug is covered)	Usual Dose	Annual Cost of Therapy
Long Acting Beta₂ Agonists (LABAs)			
Formoterol fumarate (FORADIL)	Non-Benefit for the treatment of COPD. Limited Coverage for the treatment of asthma.	1 to 2 inhalations twice daily	\$689–\$1,378
Formoterol (OXEZE TURBUHALER)	Non-Benefit for the treatment of COPD. Limited Coverage for the treatment of asthma.	1 to 2 inhalations twice daily	\$442–\$884
Indacaterol maleate (ONBREV BREEZHALER)	Limited Coverage (available to those who meet specific criteria)	1 inhalation once daily	\$611
Salmeterol xinafoate (SEREVENT DISKHALER, SEREVENT DISKUS)	Limited Coverage (available to those who meet specific criteria)	1 inhalation twice daily	\$772
Inhaled Corticosteroids (ICS)			
Beclomethasone dipropionate (QVAR)	Regular Benefit (available to anyone)	1 to 4 inhalations twice daily	Up to \$993
Budesonide (PULMICORT TURBUHALER)	Regular Benefit (available to anyone)	1 to 3 inhalations twice daily	Up to \$1095
Ciclesonide (ALVESCO)	Regular Benefit (available to anyone)	1 to 4 inhalations once daily	Up to \$993
Fluticasone furoate (ARNUITY ELLIPTA)	Regular Benefit (available to anyone)	1 inhalation once daily	Up to \$1,000
Fluticasone propionate (AERMONY RESPICLICK)	Under review	1 inhalation twice daily	Up to \$633
Fluticasone propionate (FLOVENT HFA)	Regular Benefit (available to anyone)	2 inhalations twice daily	Up to \$1,080
Fluticasone propionate (FLOVENT DISKUS)	Regular Benefit (available to anyone)	1 inhalation twice daily	Up to \$847
Mometasone furoate (ASMANEX TWISTHALER)	Regular Benefit (available to anyone)	1 to 2 inhalations once daily	Up to \$869

COST OF THE DRUGS UNDER REVIEW			
Drug	PharmaCare Status (if and how the drug is covered)	Usual Dose	Annual Cost of Therapy
Combination Therapies: (LAMA+LABA)			
Acclidinium bromide-formoterol fumarate (DUAKLIR GENUAIR)	Limited Coverage (available to those who meet specific criteria)	1 inhalation twice daily	\$788
Indacaterol-glycopyrronium (ULTIBRO BREEZHALER)	Limited Coverage (available to those who meet specific criteria)	1 inhalation once daily	\$1,056
Tiotropium-olodaterol (INSPIOLTO RESPIMAT)	Limited Coverage (available to those who meet specific criteria)	2 inhalations once daily	\$817
Umeclidinium-vilanterol (ANORO ELLIPTA)	Limited Coverage (available to those who meet specific criteria)	1 inhalation once daily	\$1,086
Combination Therapies: (ICS+LABA)			
Budesonide-formoterol fumarate (SYMBICORT TURBUHALER)	Non-Benefit for the treatment of COPD. Limited Coverage for the treatment of asthma.	1 to 4 inhalations twice daily	Up to \$1,160
Fluticasone furoate-vilanterol (BREQ ELLIPTA)	Limited Coverage (available to those who meet specific criteria)	1 inhalation once daily	\$1,103
Fluticasone propionate-salmeterol (ADVAIR)	Limited Coverage (available to those who meet specific criteria)	2 inhalations twice daily	Up to \$1,886
Fluticasone propionate-salmeterol (ADVAIR DISKUS)	Limited Coverage (available to those who meet specific criteria)	1 inhalation twice daily	Up to \$1,886
Fluticasone propionate-salmeterol (ARBESDA RESPICLICK)	Under Review (no coverage decision has been made; coverage not yet available)	1 inhalation twice daily	Up to \$1,363
Mometasone furoate-formoterol (ZENHALE)	Non-Benefit for the treatment of COPD. Limited Coverage for the treatment of asthma.	2 inhalations twice daily	Up to \$1,349
Combination Therapies: (ICS+LAMA+LABA)			
fluticasone furoate-umeclidinium-vilanterol (TRELEGY ELLIPTA)	Under Review (no coverage decision has been made; coverage not yet available)	1 inhalation once daily	\$1,737

The Drug Review Process in British Columbia

A manufacturer submits a request to the Ministry of Health (Ministry). On occasion, the Ministry may initiate a review of many drugs used to treat the same condition.

An independent group called the [Drug Benefit Council \(DBC\)](#) gives advice to the Ministry. The DBC looks at:

- whether the drug is safe and effective
- advice from a national group called the [Common Drug Review \(CDR\)](#)
- what the drug costs and whether it is a good value for the people of B.C.
- ethical considerations involved with covering or not covering the drug
- input from physicians, patients, caregivers, patient groups and drug submission sponsors

The Ministry makes PharmaCare coverage decisions by taking into account:

- existing PharmaCare policies, programs and resources
- the evidence-informed advice of the DBC
- the drugs already covered by PharmaCare that are used to treat similar medical conditions
- the overall cost of covering the drug

For more information about the B.C. Drug Review Process, visit: [The Drug Review Process in B.C. Overview](#).

This document is intended for information only.
It does not take the place of advice from a physician or other qualified health care provider.