

# BC PharmaCare Drug Information

The drug below is being considered for possible coverage under the B.C. PharmaCare program. PharmaCare is a government-funded drug plan that helps British Columbians with the cost of eligible prescription drugs and specific medical supplies. For more information on PharmaCare, visit [Ministry of Health - PharmaCare](#).

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 illness or condition.

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 to treat that illness or condition.

For more information on PharmaCare’s drug coverage review process, see the last page of this information sheet.

Information about the drug	
Generic name (scientific name)	<b>asfotase alfa</b>
Brand name	<b>Strensiq™</b>
Manufacturer	Alexion Pharmaceuticals Canada
Indication	Strensiq™ is used for the treatment of pediatric-onset hypophosphatasia (HPP)
Has the drug been reviewed by the Common Drug Review (CDR)? (see the note below this table.)	Yes For more information about the CDR’s review of asfotase alfa (Strensiq™), you can <a href="#">Search the CDR Reports</a> .
Public input start date	Wednesday December 16, 2015
Public input closing date	Wednesday January 20, 2016 <b>AT MIDNIGHT</b>
How is the drug taken?	Strensiq™ is taken by subcutaneous injection (under the skin).
How often is the drug is taken?	Strensiq™ is taken either three times or six times per week.

Information about the drug	
General drug and/or drug study information	<p>Strensiq™ (asfotase alfa) is used as an enzyme replacement therapy for patients with a confirmed diagnosis of hypophosphatasia (HPP) that developed in childhood. Hypophosphatasia is a genetic metabolic disease with low alkaline phosphatase (ALP) enzyme activity and defective bone mineralization that can lead to destruction and deformity of bones and other complications.</p> <p>Strensiq™ replaces the defective enzyme and prevents or reverses the mineralization defects of the skeleton (bones).</p> <p>Studies looked at the following common outcomes to assess if Strensiq™ is helpful and safe for the treatment of HPP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skeletal(bone) related outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Radiographic Global Impression of Change (RGI-C)</li> <li>○ Rickets severity scale (RSS)</li> <li>○ Dual Energy X-ray Absorptiometry (DEXA)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Respiratory (breathing) support</li> <li>• Z-score for height and weight</li> <li>• Bruininks-Oseretsky Test of Motor Proficiency, Second Edition (BOT-2)</li> <li>• Hand-Held Dynamometry (HDD)</li> <li>• Childhood Health Assessment Questionnaire (CHAQ)</li> <li>• Six-minute walk test (6MWT)</li> <li>• Bad reactions</li> <li>• Serious bad reactions</li> <li>• Withdrawals due to bad reactions</li> <li>• Mortality</li> <li>• Development of antibodies to the drug</li> </ul>
Other considerations	None

**Note:**

The Common Drug Review (CDR) is a national organization that reviews drugs on behalf of Canadian public sector plans when manufacturers want to have the jurisdictions provide coverage for the drugs. For detailed information on B.C. PharmaCare’s drug review process, including the role of the CDR in that process, see [The Drug Review Process in B.C. - Overview](#).

Cost of the drug under review compared to other drugs used to treat the same indication			
generic name (Brand Name)	PharmaCare Status	Usual Dose	Annual Cost of Therapy
asfotase alfa (Strensiq™)	Under Review	three times per week or six times per week	\$286,416 to \$2,545,920*

\*Price depends on patient’s weight.

### The Drug Review Process in B.C.

A manufacturer submits a request to the Ministry of Health (Ministry).

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

- the existing PharmaCare policies, programs and resources
- the evidence-informed advice of the Council
- 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.