

# 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>azelastine hydrochloride and fluticasone propionate nasal spray</b>
Brand name	Dymista®
Manufacturer	Meda Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
Indication	For the treatment of symptoms of seasonal allergic rhinitis
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 azelastine hydrochloride and fluticasone propionate (Dymista®), you can <a href="#">Search the CDR Reports</a> .
Public input start date	Wednesday April 22, 2015
Public input closing date	Wednesday May 20, 2015 <b>AT MIDNIGHT</b>
How is the drug taken?	The drug is sprayed into each nostril.
How often is the drug is taken?	Dymista® is used twice daily.
General drug and/or drug study information	Dymista® treats seasonal allergic rhinitis in people 6 years of age and older. Dymista® may help to reduce nasal symptoms, such as stuffy nose, runny nose, itching and sneezing. Studies looked at the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allergy symptom severity or symptom relief and time required to achieve a response</li> <li>• Quality of life</li> <li>• Bad reactions to the drug</li> <li>• Specific bad reactions to the drug, such as headache or dry mouth</li> <li>• Stopping the drug due to bad reactions to the drug</li> <li>• Death</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](#).

<b>Cost of the drug under review compared to other drugs used to treat the same indication</b>			
<b>generic name (Brand Name) of Drug Comparator</b>	<b>PharmaCare Status (if and how the drug is already covered)</b>	<b>Usual Dose</b>	<b>Average Daily Cost of Therapy</b>
<b>azelastine hydrochloride and fluticasone propionate (Dymista®)</b>	<b>Under Review</b>	<b>Twice daily</b>	<b>CONFIDENTIAL PRICE SUBMITTED TO CDR</b>
<b><i>Nasal Antihistamines</i></b>			
levocabastine (Livostin®)	Non-Benefit	Twice daily	\$1.70 to \$3.39
<b><i>Nasal Corticosteroids</i></b>			
beclomethasone dipropionate (generics)	Regular Benefit	Twice daily	\$0.56 to \$0.84
fluticasone propionate (generics)	Non-Benefit	Once daily	\$0.80 to \$1.60
mometasone furoate (generics)	<a href="#">Limited Coverage</a>	Once daily	\$0.68 to \$1.36
budesonide nasal spray (generics)	Regular Benefit	Once daily	\$0.36
budesonide powder for nasal inhalation (Rhinocort® Turbuhaler®)	Regular Benefit	Once daily	\$0.52
ciclesonide (Omnaris®)	Non-Benefit	Once daily	\$0.92
triamcinolone acetonide (Nasacort® AQ)	Non-Benefit	Once daily	\$0.88
flunisolide (generics)	Regular Benefit	Twice daily	\$0.81 to \$1.22
<b><i>Other nasal sprays</i></b>			
sodium cromoglycate (Rhinaris® CS)	Non-Benefit	Initial doses six times per day, then reduced to two to three times per day	\$0.41 to \$1.23

Cost of the drug under review compared to other drugs used to treat the same indication			
generic name (Brand Name) of Drug Comparator	PharmaCare Status (if and how the drug is already covered)	Usual Dose	Average Daily Cost of Therapy
<b>Oral Antihistamines</b>			
cetirizine (generics)	Non-Benefit	Once daily	\$0.41 to \$0.81
<b>Oral Leukotriene Receptor Antagonists</b>			
montelukast (generics)	Non-Benefit	Once daily	\$0.89

### 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 \(CDR\)](#)
- whether the drug is a good value for the people of B.C. and what it costs
- 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.