

# 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>daclizumab beta</b>
Brand name	<b>Zinbryta™</b>
Manufacturer	Biogen Canada Inc
Indication	Relapsing Remitting Multiple Sclerosis (RRMS)
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 daclizumab beta (ZINBRYTA™), you can <a href="#">Search the CDR Reports</a> .
Public input start date	Friday April 21, 2017
Public input closing date	<b>Friday May 19, 2017 AT MIDNIGHT</b>
How is the drug taken?	Zinbryta is administered by subcutaneous (below the skin) injection.
How often is the drug is taken?	Zinbryta is administered once per month.

Information about the drug	
General drug and/or drug study information	<p>In multiple sclerosis, the immune system mistakenly attacks the protective sheath (called myelin) around the nerves in the central nervous system (the brain and spinal cord). This stops nerves from working properly.</p> <p>People with relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis will have repeated attacks (relapses) of physical symptoms. These symptoms vary from patient to patient but usually involve physical problems such as difficulty walking, and vision and balance problems. Symptoms may disappear completely after the relapse is over (remittance), but over time, some problems may remain between relapses that can interfere with daily activities.</p> <p>Zinbryta is a humanized monoclonal antibody. Monoclonal antibodies are proteins which bind to a unique site (called an antigen) on cells. Zinbryta binds to a specific antigen which is present at high levels on certain cells of the immune system. Zinbryta works on the immune system so that it may not attack your nervous system as much.</p> <p>Studies looked at the following to determine if Zinbryta is safe and effective for the treatment of RRMS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relapse rate</li> <li>• Disability progression</li> <li>• Health-related quality of life (HRQoL)</li> <li>• Health resource utilization</li> <li>• Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) results: changes/additions/reductions in lesions</li> <li>• Bad reactions</li> <li>• Serious bad reactions</li> <li>• Patients leaving the trial due to bad reactions</li> <li>• Mortality</li> <li>• Bad reactions of special interest: lymphadenopathy;; liver toxicities; depression; serious infection.</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](#) (PDF).

<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>Annual Cost of Therapy<sup>1</sup> (\$)</b>
daclizumab beta (Zinbryta)	Under Review	One subcutaneous injection monthly	27,700
<b>Biologics</b>			
alemtuzumab (Lemtrada™)	Under Review	One intravenous infusion daily for 5 days; then after 12 months one infusion daily for 3 days	Year 1-62,750; Year 2: 37,650
natalizumab (Tysabri®)	<a href="#">Limited Coverage</a>	One intravenous infusion every 4 weeks	42,847
<b>Other injectable immunomodulatory</b>			
glatiramer acetate (Copaxone®)	<a href="#">Limited Coverage</a>	One subcutaneous injection daily	16,197
<b>Oral medications</b>			
dimethyl fumarate (Tecfidera®)	<a href="#">Limited Coverage</a>	Two capsules twice daily	24,528
fingolimod (Gilenya®)	<a href="#">Limited Coverage</a>	One capsule daily	31,000
teriflunomide (Aubagio™)	<a href="#">Limited Coverage</a>	One tablet daily	20,270
<b>Other interferons</b>			
peginterferon beta-1a (Plegridy™)	Non-Benefit	One subcutaneous injection every two weeks	22,263
interferon beta-1a (Avonex®)	<a href="#">Limited Coverage</a>	One intramuscular injection every week	22,016
interferon beta-1b (Betaseron®)	<a href="#">Limited Coverage</a>	One subcutaneous injection every other day	20,020
interferon beta-1b (Extavia®)	<a href="#">Limited Coverage</a>	One subcutaneous injection every other day	18,626
interferon beta-1a (Rebif®)	<a href="#">Limited Coverage</a>	One subcutaneous injection three times weekly	\$25,692

Note: 1 – All costs taken from the *Common Drug Review (CDR) Pharmacoeconomic Review Report for daclizumab (Zinbryta™)*

### 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 \(DBC\)](#) 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:

- the 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](#) (PDF).

**This document is intended for information only.**

It does not take the place of advice from a physician or other qualified health care provider.