

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)	fampridine
Brand name	Fampyra™
Manufacturer	Biogen Idec Canada Inc.
Indication	Fampyra™ may improve walking disability related to multiple sclerosis (MS).
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 fampridine (Fampyra™), you can Search the CDR Reports
Public input start date	Wednesday April 22, 2015
Public input closing date	Wednesday May 20, 2015 AT MIDNIGHT
How is the drug taken?	Fampridine is taken orally (by mouth).
How often is the drug is taken?	Fampridine is taken twice daily.
General drug and/or drug study information	<p>MS is an autoimmune disease that affects the central nervous system (CNS). The CNS consists of the brain, nerves and spinal cord. Nerves carry electrical and chemical messages from the brain to the body and from the body to the brain giving the ability to think, speak and move. When nerves are damaged by MS, the ability for messages to move along the nerves may be lost. This leads to a variety of neurologic symptoms such as walking difficulties, numbness, vision problems and imbalance.</p> <p>Fampyra™ is used to help improve walking in patients with MS.</p> <p>Studies used the following common outcomes to assess whether or not Fampyra™ is helpful and safe for the management of MS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The time to walk a 25-foot course quickly and safely • An aerobic walking test in which patients walked as far as possible within the 6-minute test period • How it affected quality of life • Bad reactions • Withdrawals (patients who stopped taken the drug) due to bad reactions • Death

Information about the drug

Other considerations	Initially, therapy with Fampyra™ should not be for more than 4 weeks to assess the population of patients that experience improvement in walking with this drug. The annual cost of therapy for Fampyra™, listed below, is based on patients who experience this improvement. The clinical expert deemed supportive care, such as physiotherapy, exercise and gait aids, to be the most appropriate comparator.
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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) of Drug Comparator	PharmaCare Status (if and how the drug is already covered)	Usual Dose	Annual Cost of Therapy
fampridine (Fampyra™)	Under Review	One tablet twice daily	\$7,300
<i>Disease Modifying Therapies</i>			
alemtuzumab (Lemtrada™)	Under Review	One intravenous (into a vein) infusion daily for 5 days; then after 12 months one infusion daily for 3 days	Year 1-\$56,526; Year 2: \$33,918
dimethyl fumarate (Tecfidera®)	Limited Coverage	Two capsule twice daily	\$25,320
fingolimod (Gilenya®)	Limited Coverage	One capsule daily	\$32,640
glatiramer acetate (Copaxone®)	Limited Coverage	One subcutaneous (under the skin) injection daily	\$17,326
interferon beta-1a (Avonex®)	Limited Coverage	One intramuscular (into a muscle) injection per week	\$22,154
interferon beta-1a (Rebif®)	Limited Coverage	One subcutaneous injection three times weekly	\$25,692
interferon beta-1b (Extavia®)	Limited Coverage	One subcutaneous injection every other day	\$18,988
interferon beta-1b (Betaseron®)	Limited Coverage	One subcutaneous injection every other day	\$18,988
natalizumab (Tysabri®)	Limited Coverage	One intravenous infusion every 4 weeks	\$39,799

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	Annual Cost of Therapy
teriflunomide (Aubagio™)	Limited Coverage	One tablet daily	\$20,684

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.