

# 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>fluticasone-vilanterol</b>
Brand name	<b>Breo<sup>®</sup> Ellipta<sup>®</sup></b>
Manufacturer	GlaxoSmithKline Inc.
Indication	Breo <sup>®</sup> Ellipta <sup>®</sup> is under review for the treatment of asthma.
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 fluticasone-vilanterol (Bre <sup>®</sup> Ellipta <sup>®</sup> ), 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?	Breo <sup>®</sup> Ellipta <sup>®</sup> is inhaled.
How often is the drug taken?	Breo <sup>®</sup> Ellipta <sup>®</sup> is used once daily.

Information about the drug	
General drug and/or drug study information	<p>Breo<sup>®</sup> Ellipta<sup>®</sup> contains two active ingredients, fluticasone and vilanterol.</p> <p>Fluticasone is an inhaled corticosteroid. It reduces inflammation in the airways of the lungs, which can ease breathing problems. Vilanterol is a bronchodilator. It helps to open and relax the muscles in the airways. This allows more air to get in and out of the lungs and helps prevent shortness of breath and wheezing.</p> <p>Studies looked at the following common outcomes to assess if Breo<sup>®</sup> Ellipta<sup>®</sup> is helpful and safe for the treatment of asthma:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asthma exacerbations (worsening of the symptoms)</li> <li>• Asthma Quality of Life Questionnaire for 12 years and older (AQLQ12+)</li> <li>• Asthma Control Test (ACT)</li> <li>• Pulmonary Function Tests by spirometry measures (e.g. Forced expiratory volume in 1 second (FEV1) and Peak Expiratory Flow (PEF))</li> <li>• Use of rescue medication (e.g. salbutamol puffer)</li> <li>• Increase in symptom-free 24 hour periods</li> <li>• Patient adherence</li> <li>• Bad reactions</li> <li>• Serious bad reactions</li> <li>• Bad reactions leading to withdrawals (patient stopped taking the drug)</li> <li>• Other bad reactions: headache and upper respiratory tract 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](#).

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)	Recommended Daily Use*		Annual Cost of Therapy
fluticasone-vilanterol (Breo <sup>®</sup> Ellipta <sup>®</sup> )	Under Review	Once daily	Low	N/A
			Medium	\$1,577
			High	\$1,691

**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)	Recommended Daily Use*	Annual Cost of Therapy	
<b><i>Inhaled Corticosteroid-LABA Combinations</i></b>				
budesonide-formoterol (Symbicort <sup>®</sup> Turbuhaler <sup>®</sup> )	<a href="#">Limited Coverage</a>	Once daily	Low	\$848
			Medium	\$551-1,102
			High	\$2,205
fluticasone-salmeterol (Advair <sup>®</sup> Diskus <sup>®</sup> )	<a href="#">Limited Coverage</a>	Twice daily	Low	\$1,069
			Medium	\$1,280
			High	\$1,817
fluticasone-salmeterol (Advair <sup>®</sup> MDI)	<a href="#">Limited Coverage</a>	Twice daily	Low	\$640
			Medium	\$1,280
			High	\$1,817
mometasone-formoterol fumarate (Zenhale <sup>®</sup> )	<a href="#">Limited Coverage</a>	Twice daily	Low	\$808
			Medium	\$1,050
			High	\$1,292

\*Low, medium and high refers to amount of inhaled corticosteroid

### 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.