

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)	linaclotide
Brand name	Constella™
Manufacturer	Actavis Specialty Pharmaceuticals Co.
Indication	Constella™ is indicated for the treatment of irritable bowel syndrome with constipation (IBS-C) in adults
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 linaclotide (Constella™), you can Search the CDR Reports .
Public input start date	Wednesday, May 20, 2015
Public input closing date	Wednesday, June 17, 2015 AT MIDNIGHT
How is the drug taken?	Constella™ is taken orally (by mouth).
How often is the drug is taken?	Constella™ is taken once daily.

Information about the drug	
General drug and/or drug study information	<p>IBS-C is a bowel disorder in which abdominal (stomach area) symptoms, including pain, discomfort and bloating are experienced along with constipation.</p> <p>Constella™ is believed to relieve constipation by adding fluid to the bowels, making bowel movements softer and helping them occur more often. It is also believed to decrease abdominal pain by acting on pain-sensing nerves in the intestines.</p> <p>Studies looked at the following common outcomes to assess if Constella™ is helpful and safe for the treatment of IBS-C:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement in abdominal symptoms such as pain, discomfort and bloating • Improvement in frequency of complete spontaneous bowel movements • Improvement in bowel symptoms such as weekly stool consistency or straining • Improvement in frequency of spontaneous bowel movements • Improvement in frequency of rescue medications used for laxation • Quality of Life • Bad reactions • Serious bad reactions • Withdrawals due to bad reactions • Notable bad reactions such as diarrhea
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)	Usual Dose	Daily Cost of Therapy
linaclotide (Constella™)	Under Review	290 mcg once daily	\$5.72
<i>Drugs used in the management of symptoms (symptomatic treatment) associated with IBS-C</i>			
bisacodyl oral (generics)	Palliative Care* (Non-Benefit for others)	5 mg to 15 mg	\$0.04 to \$0.12
bisacodyl suppositories (generics)	Palliative Care* (Non-Benefit for others)	10 mg suppository	\$0.51
docusate calcium (generics)	Palliative Care* (Non-Benefit for others)	240 mg	\$0.15

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	Daily Cost of Therapy
docusate sodium oral capsule (generics)	Palliative Care* (Non-Benefit for others)	100 mg to 200 mg	\$0.04 to \$0.08
docusate sodium oral liquid (generics)	Palliative Care* (Non-Benefit for others)	100 mg to 200 mg	\$0.75 to \$1.50
lactulose (generics)	Palliative Care* (Non-Benefit for others)	15 mL to 30 mL once to twice daily	\$0.24 to \$0.48
mineral oil (Fleet® Enema Mineral Oil)	Palliative Care* (Non-Benefit for others)	One enema as needed	\$3.26
sennosides/docusate sodium (Senokot®-S)	Palliative Care* (Non-Benefit for others)	One to four tablets once or twice daily	\$0.12 to \$0.96
sodium biphosphate and sodium phosphate (Fleet® Enema)	Non-Benefit	One enema as needed	\$2.46
sodium citrate and sodium lauryl sulfoacetate (Microlax® Micro Enema)	Palliative Care* (Non-Benefit for others)	5 mL to 10 mL enema	\$0.92 to \$1.83

*BC Palliative Care Benefits Program supports BC residents of any age who have reached the end stage of a life-threatening disease or illness and who wish to receive palliative care at home.

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.