

# Modernized Reference Drug Program

If a patient has tried all the fully covered drugs in a category, cannot take any of those drugs due to intolerance or another medical reason, and they meet the Special Authority criteria for a non-reference drug, their prescriber can submit a Special Authority request for full coverage.

Exempted specialists do not need to submit Special Authority requests for their patients for full coverage of a partially covered drug.



RDP Category	Special Authority information	Fully Covered Drugs (reference drugs) All strengths unless otherwise specified	Partially Covered Drugs (non-reference drugs) Includes the daily cost range for a dose equivalent to the Reference Drug Comparator	Maximum Coverage for Partially Covered Drugs (Reference Drug Comparator)
<b>Angiotensin Converting Enzyme Inhibitors (ACEIs)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exempted specialists: Paediatric Cardiology, Paediatrics.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ramipril with/without HCTZ</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>benazepril</li> <li>captopril</li> <li>cilazapril with/without HCTZ</li> <li>enalapril with/without HCTZ</li> <li>fosinopril</li> <li>lisinopril with/without HCTZ</li> <li>perindopril</li> <li>quinapril with/without HCTZ</li> <li>trandolapril</li> </ul> <p><b>Daily cost range:</b> \$0.2460 - \$2.1198</p>	<p><b>\$0.1675/day</b> based on ramipril 10 mg once daily</p>
<b>Angiotensin Receptor Blockers (ARBs)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coverage of any ARB (including the reference drugs) requires Special Authority approval.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>candesartan with/without HCTZ</li> <li>losartan with/without HCTZ</li> <li>telmisartan with/without HCTZ or amlodipine</li> <li>valsartan with/without HCTZ</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>eprosartan with/without HCTZ</li> <li>irbesartan with/without HCTZ</li> <li>olmesartan with/without HCTZ</li> </ul> <p><b>Daily cost range:</b> \$0.3267 - \$1.1965</p>	<p><b>\$0.2719/day</b> based on losartan 50 mg once daily</p>
<b>Dihydropyridine Calcium Channel Blockers (CCBs)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exempted specialists: Cardiologists, Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery, Internists specializing in cardiology, Nephrologists, Paediatrics, Paediatric Cardiology.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>amlodipine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>felodipine</li> <li>nifedipine</li> </ul> <p><b>Daily cost range:</b> \$0.5506 - \$1.0124</p>	<p><b>\$0.3229/day</b> based on amlodipine 10 mg once daily</p>
<b>Histamine<sub>2</sub> Receptor Blockers (H<sub>2</sub> Blockers)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exempted specialists: Paediatric Cardiology, Paediatrics, Paediatric general surgery.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ranitidine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>cimetidine</li> <li>famotidine</li> <li>nizatidine</li> </ul> <p><b>Daily cost range:</b> \$0.5220 - \$2.0818</p>	<p><b>\$0.3888/day</b> based on ranitidine 300 mg daily</p>
<b>Nitrates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exempted specialists: Paediatric Cardiology, Paediatrics, Paediatric general surgery.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>isosorbide dinitrate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>isosorbide mononitrate ER</li> </ul> <p><b>Daily cost range:</b> \$0.7610 (120 mg) – \$1.5219 (140 mg)</p>	<p><b>\$0.3776/day</b> based on isosorbide dinitrate 120 mg once daily</p>
<b>Non-Steroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NSAIDs not listed here are not included in the RDP and require Special Authority.</li> <li>Exempted specialists: Paediatrics, Paediatric Cardiology, Paediatric General Surgery, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Rheumatology.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ASA enteric coated</li> <li>ibuprofen</li> <li>naproxen</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>diclofenac with/without misoprostol</li> <li>diflunisal</li> <li>flurbiprofen</li> <li>indomethacin</li> <li>ketoprofen</li> <li>naproxen EC</li> </ul> <p><b>Daily cost range:</b> \$0.4558 - \$3.2173</p>	<p><b>\$0.2400/day</b> based on ibuprofen 2400 mg once daily</p>
<b>Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIs)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coverage of any PPI (including the reference drugs) requires Special Authority approval.</li> <li>Exempted specialists: Gastroenterologists do not need to submit Special Authority requests for pantoprazole Mg or rabeprazole.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>pantoprazole magnesium 40 mg strength only</li> <li>rabeprazole 20 mg strength only</li> <li>rabeprazole 10 mg strength only</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>esomeprazole 20 or 40 mg</li> <li>lansoprazole 15 or 30 mg</li> <li>omeprazole 20 mg</li> <li>pantoprazole sodium 40 mg</li> </ul> <p><b>Daily cost range:</b> \$0.3266 - \$0.5670</p>	<p><b>\$0.2025/day</b> based on pantoprazole Mg 40 mg once daily</p>
<b>Statins</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>n/a</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>atorvastatin</li> <li>rosuvastatin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>fluvastatin</li> <li>lovastatin</li> <li>pravastatin</li> <li>simvastatin</li> </ul> <p><b>Daily cost:</b> Up to \$1.9408/day (no established dose equivalency)</p>	<p><b>\$0.2632/day</b> based on rosuvastatin 10 mg once daily</p>

**Notes:** ▶ For detailed cost information, see Section 9 of the Guide to the Modernized RDP available at [www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/rdp-pro](http://www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/rdp-pro).

▶ PharmaCare may not cover all strengths/formulations. Pharmacists, please dispense specific drug product according to the RDP, Low Cost Alternative Program, and PharmaCare Full Payment Policy. For specific drug coverage information, visit [www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarecostalternativeprogram](http://www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarecostalternativeprogram)