

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) | rotigotine |
| Brand name | Neupro[®] |
| Manufacturer | UCB Canada Inc. |
| Indication | Neupro [®] is used to treat Parkinson’s disease. |
| 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 rotigotine (Neupro [®]), you can Search the CDR Reports . |
| Public input start date | Wednesday September 23, 2015 |
| Public input closing date | Wednesday, October 21, 2015 AT MIDNIGHT |
| How is the drug taken? | Neupro [®] is a patch that is applied to the skin. |
| How often is the drug is taken? | Neupro [®] is applied once daily. |

| Information about the drug | |
|--|---|
| General drug and/or drug study information | <p>Parkinson's disease is a progressive brain disorder that affects movement. The symptoms include tremor, rigidity, slowness and stiffness of muscles, trouble with balance and difficulty with walking.</p> <p>A chemical, called dopamine, is produced by the affected part of the brain. The presence of dopamine allows nerve impulses to travel smoothly from one nerve cell to another. Insufficient amounts of dopamine are thought to cause Parkinson's disease.</p> <p>Neupro[®] belongs to a group of medicines called dopamine agonists which stimulate a certain type of cell that binds with dopamine receptors in the brain.</p> <p>Studies looked at the following factors to determine whether the drug is helpful and safe for the treatment of Parkinson's disease:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement in Parkinson's symptoms using measurement scales such as the Unified Parkinson's Disease Rating Scale (UPDRS) • Improvement in Quality of Life • Loss of optimum effects of treatment (Off time) • Compliance (taking the drug as prescribed) • Improvement in sleep • Bad reactions • Serious bad reactions • Bad reactions leading to withdrawals (patient stopped taking the drug) • Notable bad reactions (heart arrhythmias) |
| 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 | Annual Cost of Therapy |
| rotigotine (Neupro [®]) | Under Review | Once daily | \$1,395 - \$5,732 |
| Non-Ergolinic Dopamine Agonists | | | |
| pramipexole (generics) | Limited Coverage | Three times daily | \$622 |
| ropinirole (generics) | Limited Coverage | Three times daily | \$336 - \$1,477 |

| 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 |
| <i>Oral levodopa-decarboxylase inhibitor combinations</i> | | | |
| levodopa-carbidopa (generics) | Regular Benefit | Two to four times daily (controlled-release tablets) | \$292 - \$2,130 |
| levodopa-benserazide (Prolopa [®]) | Regular Benefit | Four to six times daily | \$742 - \$1,482 |
| <i>Catechol-O-methyltransferase (COMT) inhibitors</i> | | | |
| entacapone (generics) | Limited Coverage | Daily in multiple doses | \$158 - \$1,265 |
| levodopa-carbidopa-entacapone (Stalevo [®]) | Limited Coverage | Daily in multiple doses | \$1,997 - \$5,324 |
| <i>Monoamine oxidase B (MAO-B) inhibitors</i> | | | |
| selegiline (generics) | Regular Benefit | Twice daily | \$396 |
| rasagiline (Azilect [®]) | Non-Benefit | Once daily | \$2,555 ¹ |

¹ CDR price

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.