

# 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>selexipag</b>
Brand name	<b>Uptravi<sup>®</sup></b>
Manufacturer	Actelion Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc.
Indication	Treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH)
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 selexipag (Uptravi <sup>®</sup> ), you can <a href="#">Search the CDR Reports</a>
Public input start date	Wednesday, August 31, 2016
Public input closing date	Wednesday, September 28, 2016 <b>AT MIDNIGHT</b>
How is the drug taken?	Uptravi <sup>®</sup> is taken orally (by mouth).
How often is the drug is taken?	Uptravi <sup>®</sup> is taken twice daily.

Information about the drug	
General drug and/or drug study information	<p>PAH is high blood pressure in the blood vessels that carry blood from the heart to the lungs (the pulmonary arteries).</p> <p>Uptravi® widens the arteries that carry blood from the heart to the lung and reduces their hardening. This makes it easier for the heart to pump blood through the pulmonary arteries.</p> <p>Studies looked at the following common outcomes to assess if Uptravi® is helpful and safe for the treatment of PAH:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worsening of the condition</li> <li>• Hospitalizations</li> <li>• 6 minutes walk distance (6MWD) test (total distance walked in 6 minutes)</li> <li>• Worsening of heart failure symptoms (measured by World Health Organization Functional Class system)</li> <li>• Worsening of PAH symptoms (such as breathlessness)</li> <li>• Quality of life</li> <li>• Bad reactions</li> <li>• Serious bad reactions</li> <li>• Patients leaving the trial due to bad reactions</li> <li>• Bad reactions of special interest: headache, diarrhea or nausea</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)	Usual Dose	Annual Cost of Therapy*
<b>Selective Prostacyclin Receptor (IP) Agonist</b>			
selexipag (Uptravi®)	Under Review	Twice daily	\$46,842 <sup>a</sup>
<b>Parenteral Prostanoids (Prostacyclins, Prostacyclin Analogues)</b>			
epoprostenol (Caripul®)	<a href="#">Limited Coverage</a>	Continuous IV infusion	First year: \$40,128 to \$54,446 Thereafter: \$42,570 to \$61,363

<b>Cost of the drug under review compared to other drugs used to treat the same indication</b>			
<b>generic name (Brand Name) of Drug Comparator</b>	<b>PharmaCare Status (if and how the drug is already covered)</b>	<b>Usual Dose</b>	<b>Annual Cost of Therapy*</b>
epoprostenol (Flolan®)	<a href="#">Limited Coverage</a>	Continuous IV infusion	First year: \$45,759 to \$61,092 Thereafter: \$48,452 to \$68,585
treprostinil (Remodulin®)	<a href="#">Limited Coverage</a>	Continuous IV or SC infusion	First year: \$39,983 to \$64,121 Thereafter: \$41,162 to \$68,462
<b><i>Phosphodiesterase Type 5 Inhibitors (PDE-5i)</i></b>			
sildenafil (Revatio™)	Non-Benefit	Three times daily	\$12,544
sildenafil (generics)	<a href="#">Limited Coverage</a>	Three times daily	\$7,084**
tadalafil (generics)	<a href="#">Limited Coverage</a>	Once daily	\$7,390
<b><i>Endothelin Receptor Antagonists (ERAs)</i></b>			
macitentan (Opsumit™)	Non-Benefit	Once daily	\$42,522
ambrisentan (Volibris®)	<a href="#">Limited Coverage</a>	Once daily	\$44,720
bosentan (generics)	<a href="#">Limited Coverage</a>	Twice daily	\$11,713
<b><i>Stimulators Of Soluble Guanylate Cyclase (Sgc)</i></b>			
riociguat (Adempas®)	Under Review	Three times daily	\$46,811 <sup>a</sup>

IV = intravenous (in a vein); SC = subcutaneous (beneath the skin)

<sup>a</sup>Manufacturer's submitted list price

\*Price source= Common Drug Review (CDR) Pharmacoeconomic Report Uptravi® July 2016

\*\*Price source= BC PharmaCare August 2016

### 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 \(DBC\)](#) gives advice to the Ministry. The DBC 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 DBC
- 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.