

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)	umeclidinium
Brand name	Incruse™ Ellipta®
Manufacturer	GlaxoSmithKline Inc.
Indication	For the treatment of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
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 umeclidinium (Incruse™ Ellipta®), you can Search the CDR Reports .
Public input start date	Wednesday July 22, 2015
Public input closing date	Wednesday August 19, 2015 AT MIDNIGHT
How is the drug taken?	Incruse™ Ellipta® is taken by inhaling.
How often is the drug is taken?	Incruse™ Ellipta® is taken once per day.

Information about the drug	
General drug and/or drug study information	<p>Incruse™ Ellipta® is used to treat breathing difficulties (for example, shortness of breath) due to a lung disease called Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). It is not used to treat sudden, severe symptoms of COPD.</p> <p>Incruse™ Ellipta® contains umeclidinium that helps to relax the muscles in the walls of small airways in the lungs. This allows more air to get in and out of the lungs and may prevent shortness of breath and wheezing.</p> <p>Studies looked at the following outcomes to assess if Incruse™ Ellipta® is helpful and safe for the treatment of COPD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lung function measured by spirometry (Forced expiratory volume in 1 second (FEV1)) • Mortality (number of deaths) • Use of healthcare resources (for example, hospital visits) • COPD-related exacerbations (worsening of symptoms) • Dyspnea (shortness of breath) • Health-related Quality of Life using St George’s Respiratory Questionnaire (SGRQ) • Exercise tolerance • Use of rescue medication (for example, salbutamol puffer) • Bad reactions • Serious bad reactions • Bad reactions leading to withdrawals (patient stopped taking the drug) • Other bad reactions (heart-related bad reactions, lung infection, dry mouth)
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
umeclidinium (Incruse™ Ellipta®)	Under Review	Once daily	Confidential price submitted to CDR
<i>Long-Acting Muscarinic Receptor Antagonists (LAMA)</i>			
aclidinium bromide (Tudorza® Genuair®)	Limited Coverage	Twice daily	\$697

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
glycopyrronium bromide (Seebri® Breezhaler®)	Limited Coverage	Once daily	\$697
tiotropium (Spiriva®)	Limited Coverage	Once daily	\$854
Long Acting Beta Agonists (LABA)			
formoterol (Foradil®)	Limited Coverage for asthma Non-benefit for COPD	Twice daily	\$664 - \$1,329
indacaterol (Onbrez® Breezhaler®)	Limited Coverage	Once daily	\$611
salmeterol (SereVent®)	Limited Coverage	Twice daily	\$737
Long Acting Beta Agonists (LABA)/ Long-acting Muscarinic Antagonist (LAMA) Combinations			
Indacaterol/ glycopyrronium (Ultibro® Breezhaler®)	Limited Coverage	Once daily	\$1,056
umeclidinium/ vilanterol (Anoro™ Ellipta®)	Under Review	Once daily	\$1,064
LABA - Inhaled Corticosteroid (ICS) Combinations			
budesonide-formoterol (Symbicort® Turbuhaler®)	Limited Coverage for asthma Non-benefit for COPD	Twice daily	\$1,095
fluticasone furoate-vilanterol trifenatate (Breo® Ellipta®)	Limited Coverage	Once daily	\$1,577
fluticasone-salmeterol (Advair® MDI or Diskus®)	Limited Coverage	Twice daily	\$1,073 - \$1,818

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.