

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)	atogepant
Brand name	Qulipta™
Manufacturer	AbbVie Corporation
Indication	For the prevention of chronic migraine in adults.
Has the drug been reviewed by Canada’s Drug and Health Technology Agency (CADTH)? (see the note below this table.)	Yes For more information about the CADTH Reimbursement Review (CRR) of atogepant, you can Search the CADTH Reports .
Public input start date	Wednesday, April 24, 2024
Public input closing date	Tuesday, May 21, 2024 AT 11:59 PM
How is the drug taken?	Atogepant is taken orally (by the mouth).
How often is the drug taken?	Atogepant is taken once daily.

General drug and/or drug study information

Atogepant is used for the prevention of chronic migraine in adults with at least 15 headache days per month (among which 8 days are considered to be migraine days) and who have previously failed, are intolerant to, or have a contraindication to at least two migraine preventive therapies.

Migraine is a complex neurological disorder that causes patients to suffer from severe headaches. These headaches are often accompanied by other symptoms such as nausea/vomiting, dizziness, and sensory hypersensitivity. Migraines can occur with or without sensory disturbances called aura which present as flashes of light, blind spots, and other vision changes, and/or tingling in the hand or face.

Atogepant belongs to a group of medicines known as calcitonin gene-related peptide (CGRP) receptor antagonists. It works by blocking the action of a chemical in the body called CGRP that is linked to migraine headaches.

Studies looked at the following:

- Change from baseline in average monthly migraine days (MMDs) at 12 weeks
- Proportion of patients with a reduction of at least 50% in 3-month average of MMDs at 12 weeks
- Change from baseline in average monthly headache days at 12 weeks
- Change from baseline in average monthly acute medication use days at 12 weeks
- Change from baseline in average monthly Performance of Daily Activities Domain Score of the Activity Impairment in Migraine-Diary (AIM-D) at 12 weeks
- Change from baseline in the Migraine Disability Assessment (MIDAS) total score at 12 weeks
- Change from baseline in Headache Impact Test (HIT-6) total score at 12 weeks
- Change from baseline in Migraine Specific Quality of Life Questionnaire (MSQ v2.1) Role Function-Restrictive domain score at 12 weeks
- Change from baseline in percent work time missed assessed by the Work Productivity and Activity Impairment Questionnaire: Migraine v2.0 (WPAI: Migraine)
- Bad reactions

Information about the drug	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serious bad reactions Patients leaving the trial due to bad reactions Bad reactions of special interest, such as thoughts of suicide, and elevated liver enzymes (alanine transaminase (ALT) or aspartate transaminase (AST) levels)
Other considerations	None

Note:

Canada's Drug and Health Technology Agency (CADTH) 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 CADTH Reimbursement Review (CRR) 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)	Dosage Form	Usual Dose	Annual Cost of Therapy ^a
Atogepant (Qulipta)	Under Review	Tablet	Once daily	\$7,274 ^b
Anti-calcitonin gene-related peptide (CGRP) monoclonal antibodies				
Eptinezumab (Vyepiti)	Limited Coverage	Solution for intravenous (IV) infusion	Once every 12 weeks	\$7,792 to \$23,377 ^c
Erenumab (Aimovig)	Non-Benefit	Autoinjector	Once monthly	\$6,384 ^d
Fremanezumab (Ajovy)	Limited Coverage	Pre-filled syringe	Once a month or once every three months	\$7,270

^a All prices as per PharmaCare Formulary unless otherwise specified.

^b Manufacturer's submitted price plus 8% markup.

^c Manufacturer's submitted price plus 8% markup.

^d Price as per CADTH Pharmacoeconomic Review Report for erenumab.

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)	Dosage Form	Usual Dose	Annual Cost of Therapy^a
Galcanezumab (Emgality)	Limited Coverage	Pre-filled syringe or pen	Initial loading dose, then once monthly	First Year: \$8,112 Subsequent years: \$7,488
Other treatments indicated for migraine prophylaxis				
Flunarizine (generics)	Regular Benefit	Capsule	Once daily	\$689
Onabotulinumtoxin A (Botox)	Non-Benefit for migraine	Concentrate powder for solution for injection	Every 12 weeks	\$2,644 to \$3,326
Pizotyline/Pizotifen (Sandomigran DS)	Regular Benefit	Tablet	Once daily	\$435 to \$2,608
Topiramate (generics)	Regular Benefit Subject to LCA	Tablet	Once daily	\$181
Anti-Epileptics				
Divalproex sodium (generics)	Regular Benefit Subject to LCA	Enteric Tablet	Once daily	\$218 to \$655
Valproic acid (generics)	Regular Benefit Subject to LCA	Capsule Oral solution Enteric capsule	Once daily	Capsule: \$229 to \$687 Oral solution: \$189 to \$567 Enteric capsule: \$251 to \$752
Gabapentin (generics)	Regular Benefit Subject to LCA	Capsule	Daily in three divided doses	\$143 to \$214
Antidepressants				
Amitriptyline (generics)	Regular Benefit Subject to LCA	Tablet	Once daily	\$34 to \$170

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)	Dosage Form	Usual Dose	Annual Cost of Therapy ^a
Doxepin (Sinequan)	Regular Benefit Subject to LCA	Capsule	Once daily	\$197 to \$635
Nortriptyline (Aventyl)	Regular Benefit Subject to LCA	Capsule	Once daily	\$236 to \$1,432
Venlafaxine (generics)	Regular Benefit Subject to LCA	Extended-release (ER) capsule	Once daily	\$76
Antihypertensives				
Atenolol (generics)	Regular Benefit Subject to LCA	Tablet	Once daily	\$61 to \$98
Metoprolol (generics)	Regular Benefit Subject to LCA	Tablet Sustained-release (SR) tablet	Once daily	Tablet: \$49 to \$99 SR tablet: \$70 to \$128
Nadolol (generics)	Regular Benefit Subject to LCA	Tablet	Once daily	\$134 to \$269
Propranolol (generics)	Regular Benefit Subject to LCA	Tablet	Daily in two divided doses	\$109 to \$180
Verapamil (generics)	Regular Benefit Subject to LCA	Tablet, SR tablet	Once daily	Tablet: \$323 to \$431 SR tablet: \$676
Candesartan (generics)	Non-Benefit for migraine	Tablet	Once daily	\$62 ^e to \$90
Lisinopril (generics)	Regular Benefit Subject to LCA	Tablet	Once daily	\$41
Anti-Manic/Mood-Stabilizer				
Lithium carbonate (generics)	Regular Benefit Subject to LCA	Capsule	Three times daily	\$78

^e Price per 4 mg dose as per CADTH Pharmacoeconomic Review Report for atogepant.

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)	Dosage Form	Usual Dose	Annual Cost of Therapy ^a
Lithium carbonate (Lithmax)	Non-Benefit	SR tablet	Three times daily	\$316 ^f

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 [Canada's Drug and Health Technology Agency \(CADTH\)](#)
- 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.

^f Price as per CADTH Pharmacoeconomic Review Report for atogepant.