

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)	brexpiprazole
Brand name	Rexulti™
Manufacturer	Lundbeck Canada Inc. and Otsuka Canada Pharmaceutical Inc.
Indication	Schizophrenia
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 brexpiprazole (REXULTI), you can Search the CDR Reports .
Public input start date	Wednesday June 21, 2017
Public input closing date	Wednesday July 19, 2017 AT MIDNIGHT
How is the drug taken?	Rexulti is taken orally (by mouth).
How often is the drug is taken?	Rexulti is taken once daily.

Information about the drug	
General drug and/or drug study information	<p>Schizophrenia is characterized by symptoms such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hallucinations: hearing, seeing or sensing things that are not there • Suspiciousness, mistaken beliefs • Incoherent speech and behavior and emotional flatness. <p>People with schizophrenia may also feel depressed, guilty, anxious or tense.</p> <p>Rexulti is not a cure, but it can help manage symptoms in adult patients. Rexulti belongs to a group of medicines called atypical antipsychotic drugs. Antipsychotic drugs affect the neurotransmitters (chemicals in the brain that allow nerve cells to talk to each other). Illnesses that affect the brain, like schizophrenia, may be due to certain neurotransmitters in the brain being out of balance. These imbalances may cause some of the symptoms of schizophrenia. Exactly how Rexulti works is unknown.</p> <p>Studies looked at the following to determine if Rexulti is safe and effective for the treatment of schizophrenia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale (PANSS), change in total score • Clinical Global Impression – Severity of Illness (CGI-S) • Clinical Global Impression – improvement Scale (CGI-S) • PANSS subscales • Health-related Quality Of Life (measured by the Schizophrenia Quality of Life Scale[S-QoL]). • Discontinuations due to a lack of efficacy • Maintenance Trial: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Time from randomization to impending relapse ○ Proportion of patients meeting impending relapse criteria • Bad reactions • Serious bad reactions • Patients leaving the trial due to bad reactions • Bad reactions of special interest (weight gain, Extrapyramidal symptoms)
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	Average Annual Cost of Therapy (\$)¹
brexpiprazole (Rexulti)	Under Review	Once daily	1,278
<i>Long-acting atypical antipsychotics</i>			
aripiprazole (Abilify™ Maintena)	Limited Coverage	One intramuscular (IM) injection monthly	5,947
paliperidone (Invega® Sustenna)	Limited Coverage	One IM injection monthly	6,216
risperidone (Risperdal Consta)	Limited Coverage	One IM injection every two weeks	4,439 to 8,866
<i>Long-acting typical antipsychotics</i>			
flupentixol decanoate (Fluanxol Depot)	Regular Benefit	One IM injection every two to three weeks	135 to 404
fluphenazine decanoate (Modecate)	Regular Benefit	One IM injection every two to three weeks	518 to 776
haloperidol decanoate (generic)	Regular Benefit	One IM injection every four weeks	552 to 3,309
pipotiazine palmitate (Pipotril L4)	Regular Benefit	One IM injection every four weeks	1,037 to 2,073
zuclopenthixol decanoate (Clopixol Depot)	Regular Benefit	One IM injection every two to four weeks	199 to 796
<i>Oral atypical antipsychotics</i>			
asenapine (Saphris)	Non-Benefit	Tablets twice daily	1,090
aripiprazole (Abilify)	Limited Coverage	Tablets once daily	1,570 to 1,853
clozapine (generic)	Regular Benefit	Tablets once daily	2,896 to 5,792
lurasidone (Latuda®)	Non-Benefit	Tablets once daily	1,570
olanzapine (generic)	Limited Coverage	Tablets once daily	233 to 939
paliperidone (Invega®)	Regular Benefit	Extended release tablets once daily	2,067

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	Average Annual Cost of Therapy (\$)¹
quetiapine (generic)	Regular Benefit	Tablets twice daily	254 to 508
	Regular Benefit	Extended release (XR) tablets once daily	765 to 1,530
risperidone (generic)	Regular Benefit	Tablets once daily	443 to 665
	Regular Benefit	Orally disintegrating tablets (ODT) once daily	746 to 1,117
ziprasidone (Zeldox®)	Limited Coverage	Capsules twice daily	1,537

¹ All cost taken from the Common Drug Review (CDR) Pharmacoeconomic Review Report for brexpiprazole (Rexulti)

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.