

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)	brinzolamide-brimonidine tartrate
Brand name	Simbrinza [®]
Manufacturer	Alcon Canada Inc.
Indication	Open-angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension
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 brinzolamide-brimonidine tartrate (Simbrinza [®]) , you can Search the CDR Reports .
Public input start date	Wednesday April 22, 2015
Public input closing date	Wednesday May 20, 2015 AT MIDNIGHT
How is the drug taken?	Simbrinza [®] is a liquid suspension that gets dropped into the eyes. It is for the eyes only.
How often is the drug is taken?	One drop in the eye or eyes, twice a day.
General drug and/or drug study information	<p>Open-angle glaucoma is caused by the slow clogging of the drainage canals in the eye, resulting in increased eye pressure. It develops slowly and is a lifelong condition.</p> <p>Simbrinza[®] contains brinzolamide and brimonidine tartrate which reduces the production of fluid in the eye and increases the amount of fluid flowing out of the eye, thereby reducing high pressure in the eye.</p> <p>Studies looked at the following factors to determine whether this drug is helpful and safe for the management of high pressure in the eye:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in eye pressure • Difference in eye pressures between the combination and each of its active components • Bad reactions • Withdrawals due to bad reactions
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	Daily Cost of Therapy	
			One Eye	Both Eyes
brinzolamide/brimonidine (Simbrinza[®])	Under Review	One drop twice daily	\$0.26	\$0.52
Individual Components				
brinzolamide (Azopt [™])	Regular Benefit	One drop twice daily	\$0.24	\$0.48
brimonidine (Alphagan [®])	Regular Benefit	One drop twice daily	\$0.08	\$0.16
Combined (Brinzolamide + brimonidine)		<i>One drop twice daily + one drop twice daily</i>	\$0.32	\$0.64
Alpha-2 Adrenergic Agonists				
apraclonidine	Regular Benefit	One drop twice daily	\$0.33	\$0.66
Beta Adrenergic Antagonists				
betaxolol (Betoptic [®] S)	Regular Benefit	One drop twice daily	\$0.17	\$0.34
timolol (Timoptic [®] and generics)	Regular Benefit	One drop twice daily	\$0.08	\$0.16
timolol gel-forming solution (Timoptic XE [®] , timolol maleate EX)	Regular Benefit	One drop twice daily	\$0.22	\$0.44
levobunolol (Betagan [®] and generics)	Regular Benefit	One drop twice daily	\$0.08	\$0.16
Carbonic Anhydrase Inhibitors				
dorzolomide (Trusopt [®] and generics)	Regular Benefit	One drop twice daily	\$0.14	\$0.28
Parasympathomimetics (Cholinergic Agents)				
pilocarpine (generics)	Regular Benefit	One drop daily	\$0.03 - \$0.04	\$0.06-\$0.08
carbachol (Isopto [®] Carbachol)	Regular Benefit	One drop three times daily	\$0.08-\$0.09	\$0.16-\$0.18

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	Daily Cost of Therapy	
			One Eye	Both Eyes
<i>Prostaglandin Derivatives</i>				
bimatoprost (Lumigan [®])	Regular Benefit	One drop daily	\$0.40	\$0.80
latanoprost (Xalatan [™] and generics)	Regular Benefit	One drop daily	\$0.13	\$0.27
travoprost (Travatan [®] and generics)	Regular Benefit	One drop daily	\$0.14	\$0.28
<i>Combination Products</i>				
brimonidine + timolol maleate (Combigan [®])	Regular Benefit	One drop twice daily	\$0.30	\$0.60
brinzolamide + timolol maleate (Azarga [®])	Regular Benefit	One drop twice daily	\$0.32	\$0.64
dorzolamide +timolol maleate (Cosopt [®] and generics)	Regular Benefit	One drop twice daily	\$0.14	\$0.28
latanoprost + timolol maleate (Xalacom [®] and generics)	Regular Benefit	One drop daily	\$0.16	\$0.32
travoprost + timolol maleate (Duotrav [®])	Regular Benefit	One tablet daily	\$0.47	\$0.93

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 \(CDR\)](#)
- whether the drug is a good value for the people of B.C. and what it costs
- 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.