

Drug Coverage Decision for B.C. PharmaCare

About PharmaCare B.C. PharmaCare is a government-funded drug plan. It helps British Columbians with the cost of eligible prescription drugs and specific medical supplies.

Details of Drug Reviewed

Drugs	atomoxetine	dextro-amphetamine	guanfacine	lisdex-amfetamine	methylphenidate	Dextroamphetamine-amphetamine (mixed amphetamine salts)
Brand Name	Strattera® and generics	Dexedrine® and generics, Dexedrine® Spansules®	Intuniv XR®	Vyvanse®	Biphentin®, Concerta® and generics, Ritalin®/Ritalin® SR and generics	Adderall XR® and generics
Dosage Forms	10 mg, 18 mg, 25 mg, 40 mg, 60 mg, 80 mg and 100 mg capsules	Dexedrine: 5 mg tablets Dexedrine Spansules: 10 mg and 15 mg capsules	1 mg, 2 mg, 3 mg and 4 mg tablets	10 mg, 20 mg, 30 mg, 40 mg, 50 mg, and 60 mg capsules	Biphentin: 10 mg, 15 mg, 20 mg, 30 mg, 40 mg, 50 mg, 60 mg and 80 mg capsules Concerta: 18 mg, 27 mg, 36 mg and 54 mg tablets Ritalin: 5 mg, 10 mg and 20 mg tablets Ritalin SR: 20 mg tablets	5 mg, 10 mg, 15 mg, 20 mg, 25 mg and 30 mg capsules
Manufacturers	Lilly and generics	Paladin and generics	Shire	Shire	Biphentin: Purdue Pharma and generics Concerta: Janssen and generics Ritalin/Ritalin SR: Novartis and generics	Shire and generics
Submission Type	Therapeutic Review					
Use Reviewed	For the treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)					
Common Drug Review (CDR)	The CDR has previously reviewed the ADHD drugs individually. Visit the CDR website for more details: https://www.cadth.ca/node/88649					
Drug Benefit Council (DBC)	DBC met on August 8, 2016. DBC considered various inputs including: clinical evidence documents; and input from five specialist physicians, three general practitioners, one clinical pharmacist, 40 patient-type inputs, 56 caregiver-type inputs and one patient group.					
Drug Coverage Decision	Limited Coverage benefits for generic atomoxetine, generic dextroamphetamine-amphetamine (mixed amphetamine salts) and lisdexamfetamine (Vyvanse®) for pediatric population. Access the					

	criteria from www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarespecialauthority . Non-Benefit for methylphenidate controlled-release (Biphentin®) and guanfacine (Intuniv XR®).
Date	April 18, 2017
Reasons	<p>Drug coverage decision is consistent with the DBC recommendation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DBC recommended that additional drugs be listed as Limited Coverage benefits for the treatment of ADHD for pediatric population. • The DBC recommended that non-stimulant drugs should be used where stimulants are not appropriate, not tolerated or ineffective. • The DBC noted there is similar evidence of efficacy and safety between the immediate-release and extended-release formulations of drugs for the treatment of ADHD. The DBC also acknowledged that, although the clinical efficacy data shows few differences between the immediate-release and extended-release drugs, there may be other differences between these drugs (such as differences in adherence or stigma). • The DBC further noted that there are no significant differences between the extended-release stimulant drugs based on the clinical data; however, there may be some other differences between the drug products (such as ability to sprinkle some medications). Given that there are no significant differences between these drugs, PharmaCare identified dextroamphetamine-amphetamine and lisdexamfetamine as the most cost-effective drugs among the extended-release stimulants.
Other Information	For more information on the therapeutic review, including links to clinical evidence documents and the DBC Recommendation and Reasons for Recommendation, visit http://www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/ADHDtherapeuticreview

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

Visit the [The Drug Review Process in B.C. - Overview](#) and [Ministry of Health - PharmaCare](#) for more information.

This document is intended for information only.

It does not take the place of advice from a physician or other qualified health care provider.