

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

Drug	brinzolamide-brimonidine tartrate
Brand Name	Simbrinza®
Dosage Form(s)	Ophthalmic suspension
Manufacturer	Alcon Canada Inc.
Submission Review	New Submission
Use Reviewed	Open-angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes, CDR recommended: To List www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/cdr/complete/cdr_complete_SR0403_Simbrinza_June-19_2015.pdf
Drug Benefit Council (DBC) or Provincial Review (choose one)	The DBC screened Simbrinza® and advised that because it contains a combination of similar drugs that have been already reviewed by the DBC in the past, the Ministry may accept the Canadian Drug Expert Committee's (CDEC) recommendation for Simbrinza®.
Drug Coverage Decision	Regular Benefit
Date	October 27, 2015
Reason(s)	<p>Simbrinza® was not reviewed by the DBC because it contains a combination of similar drugs that have been already reviewed by the DBC in the past. The Ministry of Health reviewed clinical evidence and pharmacoeconomic reports prepared by the CDR, the Final CDEC Recommendation and Reasons, and patient input received from one caregiver.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two randomized controlled trials demonstrated that Simbrinza® twice daily reduced intraocular pressure more than the individual components alone and similar to the individual components used in combination for lowering intraocular pressure. Harms associated with Simbrinza® were similar to those associated with combination use of the two individual components. Compared to other fixed dose combination products for open angle-glaucoma or ocular hypertension, (except when compared to dorzolamide-timolol fixed dose combination), Simbrinza® is less expensive. At the submitted price, Simbrinza® is less expensive than the individual components of brinzolamide and brimonidine.
Other Information	N/A

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:

- advice from a national group called the Common Drug Review
- whether the drug is safe and effective
- whether it is a good value for the people of B.C.
- the ethics of covering or not covering the drug
- input from physicians, patients, caregivers, patient groups and drug submission sponsors

The Ministry makes a decision based on many factors, including:

- advice from the DBC
- drugs used to treat similar medical conditions that B.C. PharmaCare already covers
- the overall cost of covering the drug

Visit the B.C. [Drug Review Process](#) and [PharmaCare](#) program 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.