

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	budesonide-glycopyrronium-formoterol
Brand Name	Breztri® Aerosphere®
Dosage Form	182 mcg budesonide/8.2 mcg glycopyrronium (as bromide)/5.8 mcg formoterol fumarate dihydrate per metered actuation, inhalation use.
Manufacturer	AstraZeneca Canada Inc.
Submission Type	New Submission
Use Reviewed	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes, CDR recommended: to Reimburse with clinical criteria and/or conditions . Visit the CDR website for more details: www.cadth.ca/node/88649 . (https://www.cadth.ca/budesonide-glycopyrronium-formoterol-fumarate)
Provincial Review	The DBC now screens drug submissions under review by the CDR to determine whether a full DBC review is necessary, based on past DBC reviews, recommendations, and existing PharmaCare coverage. If a full DBC review is determined to not be required, the Ministry's drug coverage decision will be based on the Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC) recommendation and an internal review only. The DBC screened budesonide-glycopyrronium-formoterol on March 1, 2021. The DBC advised that because budesonide-glycopyrronium-formoterol is similar to some of the other drugs used for the treatment of COPD, the Ministry may accept the CDEC recommendation.
Drug Coverage Decision	Limited Coverage Benefit. Access the Breztri Aerosphere criteria from www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarespecialauthority

Date	November 2, 2022
Reason(s)	<p>Drug coverage decision is consistent with the CDEC recommendation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on evidence from two randomized controlled trials, Breztri Aerosphere demonstrated improvements in the rate of moderate to severe exacerbations compared to inhaled corticosteroid (ICS)/long-acting beta₂-adrenergic agonist (LABA) and long-acting muscarinic antagonist (LAMA)/LABA dual therapy combinations. Breztri Aerosphere was also associated with improved pulmonary function as compared with dual combination therapies. Breztri Aerosphere is administered via metered-dose inhaler (MDI) whereas fluticasone-umeclidinium-vilanterol (Trelegy® Ellipta®), another fixed-dose triple inhaler is administered as a dry powder inhaler (DPI). Based on the submitted price, Breztri Aerosphere is less costly than Trelegy Ellipta. The Ministry participated in the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA) negotiations with the manufacturer and an agreement was reached, which was able to address the reimbursement pricing condition identified by the CDEC.
Other Information	None

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 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.