

# 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	insulin lispro	insulin aspart
Brand Name	Admelog®	Trurapi®
Dosage Form(s)	10 mL vial 3 mL cartridge 3 mL SoloSTAR® prefilled pen	3 mL cartridge 3 mL SoloSTAR® prefilled pen
Manufacturer	Sanofi-Aventis Canada Inc.	Sanofi-Aventis Canada Inc.
<b>Submission Type</b>	<b>Biosimilars</b>	
Use Reviewed	For the treatment of patients with diabetes mellitus	
Common Drug Review (CDR)	As of June 1, 2019, the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH) no longer reviews biosimilars as their existing process may delay access to these products, and to deploy its limited resources to reviews of other drugs.	
Provincial Review	PharmaCare also no longer asks the Drug Benefit Council (DBC) to review biosimilars, as Health Canada's biosimilar reviews are thorough and do not compromise efficacy and patient safety; therefore, PharmaCare reviewed Admelog and Trurapi internally.	
<b>Drug Coverage Decision</b>	<b>Regular Benefits</b>	
Date	<b>November 30, 2021</b>	
Reason(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health Canada's review concluded that the insulin lispro and insulin aspart biosimilars were similar to and had no clinically meaningful differences from the biologic reference drug, Humalog® and NovoRapid® respectively, with respect to efficacy, safety, pharmacokinetics and immunogenicity.</li> <li>Results from a CADTH Rapid Response evaluating switching from the biologic reference drugs to biosimilars suggested that switching from Humalog or NovoRapid to insulin lispro or</li> </ul>	

	<p>insulin aspart biosimilars respectively can be performed safely with no impact on drug efficacy and clinical response.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Based on the submitted product price, the insulin lispro and insulin aspart biosimilars cost significantly less than the biologic originators, Humalog and NovoRapid.</li> <li>BC participated in the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA) for Admelog Trurapi.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other Information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On <b>November 30, 2021</b>, changes to the drug coverage will be as follows:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coverage of the Admelog or Trurapi biosimilar products will be available for new patients as regular benefits.</li> <li>Simultaneous to the biosimilar switching of insulin lispro and insulin aspart, PharmaCare is changing coverage of all listed rapid-acting insulins (RAIs) (including the added biosimilars) from maximum allowable cost (MAC) to retail pricing policy:                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Humalog</li> <li>Admelog</li> <li>NovoRapid</li> <li>Trurapi</li> <li>Apidra®</li> <li>Humalog®Mix25®</li> <li>Humalog®Mix50®</li> <li>NovoMix®30</li> </ul> </li> <li>This change means patients who receive full coverage under their PharmaCare plan will no longer have to pay out-of-pocket costs, and the full retail price will count towards the Fair PharmaCare deductible and family maximum, similar to all other insulin products covered by PharmaCare. The exact impact on each family will depend on the rules of their PharmaCare Plan.</li> </ul> </li> <li>On <b>December 15, 2021</b>, changes to the drug coverage will be as follows:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing patients taking Humalog Mix25, Humalog Mix50 or NovoMix 30 products will continue to receive coverage, but new patients will not be covered.</li> <li>Existing patients taking Humalog or NovoRapid products will continue to receive coverage, but new patients will not be covered. The respective biosimilar products, Admelog or Trurapi, will be covered for new patients.</li> <li>This extra two weeks of coverage for the originators will help patients who may be impacted by supply issues resulting from the BC emergency.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Between <b>November 30, 2021 to May 29, 2022</b>, a six-month transition period applies to the drug coverage as follows:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Patients with existing PharmaCare coverage for Humalog or NovoRapid products, and who wish to maintain their coverage must, in consultation with their prescriber, switch to the biosimilar products, Admelog or Trurapi respectively, by May 29, 2022.</li> <li>During the six-month transition period, Humalog and NovoRapid products will be covered for existing patients.</li> </ul> </li> <li>On <b>May 30, 2022</b>, changes to the drug coverage will be as follows:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coverage for Humalog and NovoRapid will come to an end and only the respective biosimilar products, Admelog or Trurapi, will be authorized for continued coverage.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Additional information is available online at <a href="http://www.gov.bc.ca/biosimilars/">www.gov.bc.ca/biosimilars/</a></li> </ul>

### 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.