

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	tiotropium bromide
Brand Name	Spiriva® Respimat®
Dosage Form(s)	2.5 mcg solution for inhalation
Manufacturer	Boehringer Ingelheim Canada Ltd.
Submission Review	New Submission
Use Reviewed	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes, CDR recommended: to List with criteria . Visit the CDR website for more details: https://www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/cdr/complete/SR0412-complete-Spiriva-Respimat-July-20-15-e.pdf .
Drug Benefit Council (DBC) or Provincial Review	DBC now screens drug submissions under review by the CDR to determine whether or not 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 tiotropium bromide (Spiriva® Respimat®) and advised that because tiotropium bromide (Spiriva® Respimat®) is similar to some of the other drugs used for the treatment of COPD, the Ministry may accept the CDEC's recommendation for tiotropium bromide (Spiriva® Respimat®).
Drug Coverage Decision	Limited Coverage Benefit . Access the tiotropium bromide (Spiriva® Respimat®) criteria from www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarespecialauthority
Date	April 5, 2016
Reason(s)	The Ministry reviewed clinical evidence and pharmacoeconomic reports prepared by the CDR, and the Final CDEC Recommendation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiriva® Respimat® contains the same medication as Spiriva® HandiHaler® which is eligible for PharmaCare coverage as a Limited Coverage drug. • The tiotropium bromide administered with the Respimat device (Spiriva® Respimat®) was similar to tiotropium bromide (Spiriva®) administered with HandiHaler® device with respect to efficacy and safety. • Based on economic considerations and the submitted product price, the drug offers value for money compared to existing drugs for the treatment of COPD.
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:

- 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.