

BC PharmaCare Drug Information

The drug below is being considered for possible coverage under the B.C. PharmaCare program. PharmaCare is a government-funded drug plan that helps British Columbians with the cost of eligible prescription drugs and specific medical supplies. For more information on PharmaCare, visit [Ministry of Health - PharmaCare](#).

PharmaCare reviews each drug for treating a specific illness or medical condition (known as an “indication”). If a decision is made to cover the drug, it will be only for that illness or condition.

In some cases, PharmaCare may cover a drug only for people who have the illness or condition and have not responded to other drugs used to treat that illness or condition.

For more information on PharmaCare’s drug coverage review process, see the last page of this information sheet.

Information about the drug	
Generic name (scientific name)	empagliflozin-metformin
Brand name	Synjardy[®]
Manufacturer	Boehringer Ingelheim (Canada) Ltd.
Indication	type 2 diabetes
Has the drug been reviewed by the Common Drug Review (CDR)? (see the note below this table.)	Yes For more information about the CDR’s review of empagliflozin-metformin (Synjardy [®]), you can Search the CDR Reports .
Public input start date	Wednesday, August 31, 2016
Public input closing date	Wednesday, September 28, 2016 AT MIDNIGHT
How is the drug taken?	Synjardy [®] is taken orally (by mouth).
How often is the drug taken?	Synjardy [®] is taken twice daily.

Information about the drug	
General drug and/or drug study information	<p>Type 2 diabetes is a condition in which the body does not make enough insulin and/or does not use the insulin that the body produces as well as it should. When this happens, glucose (sugar) builds up in the blood.</p> <p>Synjardy® contains two drugs, empagliflozin and metformin. Empagliflozin works directly in the kidney by increasing the amount of sugar removed from the body in the urine, which reduces the amount of sugar in the blood. Metformin helps to lower the amount of sugar made by the liver and lower the amount of sugar moved from the gut into the blood.</p> <p>Studies looked at the following common outcomes to assess if Synjardy®, is helpful and safe for the treatment of type 2 diabetes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood sugar control (including hemoglobin A1c, fasting blood glucose) • Change in body weight • Change in blood pressure • Quality of life • Bad reactions • Serious bad reactions • Patients leaving the trial due to bad reactions • Bad reactions of special interest: low blood sugar and genital or urinary tract infections
Other considerations	None

Note:

The Common Drug Review (CDR) is a national organization that reviews drugs on behalf of Canadian public sector plans when manufacturers want to have the jurisdictions provide coverage for the drugs. For detailed information on B.C. PharmaCare's drug review process, including the role of the CDR in that process, see [The Drug Review Process in B.C. - Overview](#).

Cost of the drug under review compared to other drugs used to treat the same indication			
generic name (Brand Name) of Drug Comparator	PharmaCare Status (if and how the drug is already covered)	Recommended Daily Use	Daily Cost of Therapy*
empagliflozin-metformin (Synjardy®)	Under Review	Twice daily	\$2.92 ^a
empagliflozin (Jardiance™)	Under Review	Once daily	\$2.83 ^a
metformin (generics)	Regular Benefit	Three to four times daily	\$0.14 to \$0.19

Cost of the drug under review compared to other drugs used to treat the same indication			
generic name (Brand Name) of Drug Comparator	PharmaCare Status (if and how the drug is already covered)	Recommended Daily Use	Daily Cost of Therapy*
<i>Other Sodium-Glucose Transport Protein (SGLT2) Inhibitors Plus Metformin Fixed-Dose Combinations</i>			
canagliflozin-metformin (Invokamet®)	Under Review	Twice daily	\$3.31 ^a
dapagliflozin-metformin (XigDuo®)	Under Review	Twice daily	\$2.83 ^a
<i>Dipeptidyl Peptidase-4 (DPP-4) Inhibitors Plus Metformin Fixed-Dose Combinations</i>			
saxagliptin-metformin (Komboglyze®)	Limited Coverage	Twice daily	\$2.74
linagliptin-metformin (Jentadueto™)	Limited Coverage	Twice daily	\$2.56
sitagliptin-metformin (Janumet®, Janumet® XR)	Non-Benefit	Twice daily (Janumet® XR: Once daily)	\$3.49
alogliptin-metformin (Kazano™)	Non-Benefit	Twice daily	\$2.74**

^a Manufacturer's submitted market price

* Price source: BC PharmaCare (August 2016) unless otherwise stated

** Price source: Common Drug Review Pharmacoeconomic Report for empagliflozin-metformin (Synjardy™) August 2016

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

For more information about the B.C. Drug Review Process, visit: [The Drug Review Process in B.C. - Overview](#).

This document is intended for information only.

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