

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)	evolocumab
Brand name	Repatha™
Manufacturer	Amgen Canada Inc.
Indication	Repatha™ is indicated for the treatment of primary hyperlipidemia and mixed dyslipidemia (high levels of bad cholesterol)
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 evolocumab (Repatha™), you can Search the CDR Reports .
Public input start date	Wednesday December 16, 2015
Public input closing date	Wednesday January 20, 2016 AT MIDNIGHT
How is the drug taken? (e.g., orally or through IV)	Repatha™ is taken as an injection under the skin (subcutaneous).
How often is the drug is taken?(e.g., once per day, three times a day, as needed)	Repatha™ is taken either every two weeks or once monthly.

Information about the drug	
General drug and/or drug study information	<p>Cholesterol is one of several fatty substances found in the bloodstream. Your total cholesterol is made up mainly of low density lipoprotein (LDL) and high density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol. LDL cholesterol is often called “bad” cholesterol because it can build up in the walls of your arteries forming plaque. Eventually this plaque build-up can lead to a narrowing of the arteries. This narrowing can slow or block blood flow to vital organs such as the heart and brain. This blocking of blood flow can result in a heart attack or stroke and can cause other health problems. HDL cholesterol is often called “good” cholesterol because it helps keep the bad cholesterol from building up in the arteries and protects against heart disease. Triglycerides are another form of fat in your blood that may increase your risk of heart disease.</p> <p>Repatha™, a Proprotein Convertase Subtilisin/Kexin Type 9 (PCSK9) inhibitor, is a medicine used to lower levels of cholesterol by helping the liver’s ability to remove “bad” cholesterol from the blood. Repatha™ lowers levels of total cholesterol, “bad” cholesterol (LDL cholesterol), and triglycerides in the blood. In addition, Repatha™ raises levels of “good” cholesterol (HDL cholesterol).</p> <p>Studies looked at the following outcomes to assess if Repatha™ is helpful and safe for the treatment of primary hyperlipidemia and mixed dyslipidemia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Death • Clinical worsening (eg. heart attack, hospitalization) • Change in LDL or “bad” cholesterol level • Change in quality of life • Bad reactions • Serious bad reactions • Withdrawals due to bad reactions (patients who stopped taking the drug) • Notable harms (eg. injection site reactions)
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)	Usual Dose	Annual Cost of Therapy
evolocumab (Repatha™)	Under Review	Every 2 weeks	\$7844
HMG-CoA Reductase Inhibitors (Statins)			

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)	Usual Dose	Annual Cost of Therapy
rosuvastatin calcium (generics)	Regular Benefit	Once daily	\$95 to \$142
atorvastatin calcium (generics)	Regular Benefit	Once daily at bedtime	\$124 to \$168
fluvastatin sodium (generics)	Regular Benefit	Once daily at bedtime	\$88 to \$120
fluvastatin sodium (Lescol® XL)	Regular Benefit	Once daily	\$613
lovastatin (generics)	Regular Benefit	Once daily at bedtime	\$193 to \$708
pravastatin sodium (generics)	Regular Benefit	Once daily at bedtime	\$161 to \$226
simvastatin (generics)	Regular Benefit	Once daily at bedtime	\$142 to \$179
<i>Cholesterol Absorption Inhibitor</i>			
ezetimibe (Ezetrol®)	Non-Benefit	Once daily	\$617
fenofibrate (Lipidil EZ®)	Regular Benefit	Once daily	\$37 to \$106
bezafibrate (Bezalip® SR and generics)	Non-Benefit	Once daily every morning or at bedtime	\$872
micro-coated fenofibrate (Lipidil Supra® and generics)	Regular Benefit	Once daily	\$106
fenofibrate (Lipidil® and generics)	Regular Benefit	Three times daily	\$723 to \$964
fenofibrate (lipidil Micro® and generics)	Regular Benefit	Once daily	\$106 to \$215
gemfibrozil (generics)	Regular Benefit	Twice daily	\$204
<i>Binders/Bile Acid Sequestrants</i>			
colesevelam (Lodalis™)	Regular Benefit	Once or twice daily	\$1,767 to \$2,650

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)	Usual Dose	Annual Cost of Therapy
cholestyramine resin (Olestyr [®] and generics)	Regular Benefit	1 to 6 packets in divided doses daily	\$606 to \$3,635
colestipol HCl (Colestid [®] Regular, Orange)	Regular Benefit	1 to 6 packets in divided doses daily	\$380 to \$2,278

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 \(Council\)](#) gives advice to the Ministry. The Council 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 Council
- 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.