

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 June 21, 2017
Public input closing date	Wednesday July 19, 2017 AT MIDNIGHT
How is the drug taken?	Repatha is administered by subcutaneous (under the skin) injection.
How often is the drug is taken?	Repatha is administered either every two weeks or once per month.
General drug and/or drug study information	<p>Cholesterol is one of several fatty substances found in the bloodstream. The total cholesterol in the body 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 on the walls of the arteries forming plaques. Eventually, this plaque build up can lead to a narrowing of the arteries. The narrowing can slow or block blood flow to vital organs such as the heart and brain, resulting 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.</p> <p>Triglycerides are another form of fat in the blood that may increase the risk of heart disease.</p> <p>Repatha, a Pro-protein Convertase Subtilisin/Kexin Type 9 (PCSK9) inhibitor, is a medicine used to lower the levels of cholesterol by improving 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</p>

Information about the drug	
	<p>raises levels of "good" cholesterol (HDL cholesterol).</p> <p>Studies looked at the following to determine if Repatha is safe and effective for the treatment of primary hyperlipidemia and mixed dyslipidemia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Death • Heart attack • Stroke • Other cardiovascular-related events (eg. hospitalization) • Change in LDL or "bad" cholesterol level • Change in quality of life • Health care resource utilization • Vascular imaging • Other laboratory parameters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lipid Panel ○ Lipoproteins (Apo-B and LP-A) • Bad reactions • Serious bad reactions • Patients leaving the trial due to bad reactions • Bad reactions of special interest: immune reactions, injection site reactions, muscle symptoms, neurocognitive events, elevated liver enzymes and diabetes
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
<i>Pro-protein Convertase Subtilisin/Kexin Type 9 (PCSK9) Inhibitors</i>			
evolocumab (Repatha™)	Under Review	140 mg very 2 weeks OR 420 mg every month	\$7,844 – \$10,862 ²
alirocumab (Praluent™)	Under Review	Once every two weeks	\$7,844 ²
<i>HMG-CoA Reductase Inhibitors (Statins)</i>			
rosuvastatin calcium (generics)	Regular Benefit	Once daily	\$91 - \$141 ¹

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
atorvastatin calcium (generics)	Regular Benefit	Once daily at bedtime	\$103 - \$138 ¹
fluvastatin sodium (generics)	Regular Benefit	Once daily at bedtime	\$96 ¹
fluvastatin sodium (Lescol® XL)	Regular Benefit	Once daily	\$96 ¹
lovastatin (generics)	Regular Benefit	Once daily at bedtime	\$96 ¹
pravastatin sodium (generics)	Regular Benefit	Once daily at bedtime	\$96 ¹
simvastatin (generics)	Regular Benefit	Once daily at bedtime	\$96 ¹
Cholesterol Absorption Inhibitors			
ezetimibe (Ezetrol® and generics)	Non-Benefit	Once daily	\$473 ¹

¹ Costs based on PharmaNet Information

² Costs based on Manufacturer's submitted market price

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.