

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)	fluticasone furoate-vilanterol
Brand name	Breo™ Ellipta™
Manufacturer	GlaxoSmithKline Inc
Indication	For the treatment of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), including chronic bronchitis and/or emphysema
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 fluticasone-vilanterol (Breo™ Ellipta™), you can Search the CDR Reports .
Public input start date	Wednesday October 18, 2017
Public input closing date	Wednesday November 15, 2017 AT MIDNIGHT
How is the drug taken?	Breo Ellipta is inhaled.
How often is the drug is taken?	Breo Ellipta is taken once daily.

Information about the drug	
General drug and/or drug study information	<p>Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is a respiratory disorder characterized by progressive, partially-reversible airway obstruction and lung hyperinflation, systemic manifestations and increasing frequency and severity of exacerbations (an increase in the severity of the disease or its signs and symptoms). There is overlap of COPD subtypes, with many individuals presenting with features of both chronic bronchitis and emphysema.</p> <p>Breo Ellipta contains two active ingredients, fluticasone furoate and vilanterol.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fluticasone furoate is an inhaled corticosteroid (ICS). It reduces inflammation in the airways of the lungs, which can ease breathing problems in COPD and helps prevent “flare-ups”. • vilanterol is a long-acting beta₂ agonist (LABA). It helps to open and relax the muscles in the airways. This allows more air to get in and out of the lungs and helps prevent shortness of breath and wheezing. <p>This medicine does not cure COPD but helps to control it.</p> <p>Studies looked at the following to determine if Breo Ellipta is safe and effective for the treatment of COPD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mean annual rate of moderate or severe exacerbations • Mortality • Health related Quality of Life (HRQoL) assessed using the europQoL 5D Questionnaire-five dimensions, three level version(EQ-5D-3L) • COPD Assessment Test (CAT) • Use of rescue medication • Health care resource utilization • Spirometry • Bad reactions • Serious bad reactions • Patients leaving the trial due to bad reactions • Bad reactions of special interest (pneumonia, reduced bone mineral density and effects on blood glucose).
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 Therapy¹
fluticasone furoate- vilanterol (Breo™ Ellipta™)	Limited Coverage	Once daily	\$1,000
<i>Inhaled Corticosteroid (ICS)/Long-Acting Beta₂ Agonist (LABA) Fixed Dose Combinations</i>			
budesonide-formoterol (Symbicort® Turbuhaler®)	Limited Coverage for asthma Non-benefit for COPD	Twice daily	\$1,056
fluticasone-salmeterol (Advair® MDI or Diskus®)	Limited Coverage	Twice daily	\$1,205 – \$1,711
<i>LABA/Long-Acting Muscarinic Antagonist (LAMA) Fixed Dose Combinations</i>			
indacaterol-glycopyrronium (Ultibro® Breezhaler®)	Limited Coverage	Once daily	\$978
umeclidinium-vilanterol (Anoro™ Ellipta™)	Limited Coverage	Once daily	\$986
aclidinium-formoterol (Duaklir® Genuair®)	Limited Coverage	Twice daily	\$730
<i>LABAs</i>			
formoterol (Oxeze® Turbuhaler®)	Limited Coverage for asthma Non-benefit for COPD	Twice daily	\$442 - \$589 ²
formoterol (Foradil®)	Limited Coverage for asthma Non-benefit for COPD	Twice daily	\$607 - \$1,215
indacaterol maleate (Onbrez® Breezhaler®)	Limited Coverage	Once daily	\$566
salmeterol (SereVent®)	Limited Coverage	Twice daily	\$689
<i>LAMAs</i>			
aclidinium bromide (Tudorza™ Genuair™)	Limited Coverage	Twice daily	\$646
glycopyrronium bromide (Seebri®)	Limited Coverage	Once daily	\$646
tiotropium (Spiriva®)	Limited Coverage	Once daily	\$631

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 Therapy¹
tiotropium (Spiriva® Respimat)	Limited Coverage	Twice daily	\$631
umeclidinium (Incruse® Ellipta®)	Limited Coverage	Once daily	\$608
Short-Acting Anticholinergic			
ipratropium bromide (Atrovent®)	Non-Benefit	Three to four times daily	\$217 - \$289
Short-Acting Beta₂ Agonists (SABA)			
salbutamol (Airomir®)	Regular Benefit	Up to four times daily	\$36 - \$73
salbutamol (Ventolin® and generics)	Regular Benefit	Up to four times daily	\$36 - \$73
terbutaline (Bricanyl® Turbohaler®)	Regular Benefit	Up to six times daily	\$29 - \$174
Xanthine Bronchodilator			
theophylline (Uniphyll® and generics)	Regular Benefit	Once daily	\$135 - \$270
Phosphodiesterase type 4 inhibitor (PDE-4 inhibitor)			
roflumilast (Daxas®)	Non-Benefit	One tablet daily	\$780

Notes:

1 – Unless otherwise noted, all costs taken from the CDR Pharmacoeconomic Review Report (Resubmission) for fluticasone furoate-vilanterol (Breo Ellipta) 2017 Sep 28

2 – Cost taken from PharmaNet

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.