

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 www.health.gov.bc.ca/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)	ivacaftor
Brand name	Kalydeco®
Manufacturer	Vertex Pharmaceuticals (Canada) Inc.
Indication	Ivacaftor is used for the treatment of cystic fibrosis (CF) with a specific type of genetic mutation
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 ivacaftor (Kalydeco®) you can search the CDR Drug Database at: http://cadth.ca/en/products/cdr/search
Public input start date	Wednesday October 22, 2014
Public input closing date	Wednesday November 19, 2014 AT MIDNIGHT
How is the drug taken?	Kalydeco® is taken orally (by mouth.)
How often is the drug is taken?	Twice daily

Information about the drug	
General drug and/or drug study information	<p>Cystic fibrosis is a genetic disease that causes thick, sticky mucus to build up in the lungs, digestive tract, and other areas of the body.</p> <p>Kalydeco® is used to treat cystic fibrosis in patients 6 years of age or older who have a specific type of genetic mutation.</p> <p>Studies looked at the following factors to assess if Kalydeco® is helpful and safe for the treatment of cystic fibrosis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lung function tests • The number of times the condition worsens • Hospitalizations • Quality of Life • Change in body weight (increase in weight) • Side effects of the medication
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 www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/outgoing/drugrevproc2.pdf

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
Ivacaftor (Kalydeco®)	Under Review	Two times daily	\$321,930
Aztreonam (Cayston®)	Limited Coverage	Three times daily for 28 days, followed by 28 days off therapy	\$29,729
Tobramycin (TOBI® Podhaler®)	Limited Coverage	Two times per day for 28 days, followed by 28 days off therapy	\$22,422
Tobramycin (TOBI®) solution for inhalation	Limited Coverage	Two times per day for 28 days, followed by 28 days off therapy	\$21,480
Colistimethate (Coly - mycin™)	Regular Benefit	Two times per day	\$12,140

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
Tobramycin injectable	Regular Benefit	Two times per day for 28 days, followed by 28 days off therapy	\$7,526
dornase alfa (Pulmozyme®)	Non Benefit	once or twice daily	\$14,671 – \$29,339

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 (see www.cadth.ca/en/products/cdr/cdr-overview)
- whether the drug is a good value for the people of B.C. and what it costs
- 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 www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/outgoing/drugrevproc2.pdf.

This document is intended for information only.

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