

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)	mifepristone-misoprostol
Brand name	Mifegymiso™
Manufacturer	Celopharma Inc.
Indication	Medical termination of pregnancy
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 mifepristone-misoprostol (Mifegymiso™), you can Search the CDR Reports .
Public input start date	Wednesday February 15, 2017
Public input closing date	Wednesday March 15, 2017 AT MIDNIGHT
How is the drug taken?	Oral mifepristone tablet and buccal (dissolved in the mouth) misoprostol tablet
How often is the drug is taken?	The mifepristone tablet is followed 24 to 48 hours later by the misoprostol tablet
General drug and/or drug study information	<p>Mifegymiso™ is used for termination of pregnancy, if the last period started 49 days ago or less.</p> <p>Mifepristone blocks the progesterone effect on the uterus and the uterus can no longer sustain the pregnancy. Mifepristone also triggers an increase in prostaglandin levels and dilates the cervix, facilitating abortion. Misoprostol then induces contractions of the smooth muscle tissue of the uterus, relaxation of the uterine cervix and evacuation of the intrauterine contents.</p> <p>Studies looked at the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of women with termination of pregnancy without need for surgery at any time • Complication rates (i.e. bleeding, infection, pain) • Bad reactions • Serious bad reactions • Patients leaving the trial due to bad reactions • Bad reactions of special interest: endometritis, lower stomach pain

Information about the drug

Other considerations	None
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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	Cost of Therapy
mifepristone and misoprostol (Mifegymiso)	Under Review	One mifepristone tablet followed by four misoprostol tablets	\$324
<i>Off-label medications used for termination of pregnancy</i>			
methotrexate and misoprostol	Limited Coverage/Regular Benefit	50mg/m ² methotrexate intramuscularly, followed 3 to 5 days later by 800 µg misoprostol, vaginally, buccally or sublingually	\$21
methotrexate and misoprostol	Regular Benefit	50 mg of methotrexate orally, followed 3 to 5 days later by 800 µg misoprostol, vaginally, buccally or sublingually	\$13
misoprostol	Regular Benefit	2 to 3 doses of 800 µg, vaginally, buccally or sublingually every 3 to 24 hours, to a maximum daily dose 2400 µg	\$4 - \$6

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.