



Refills

Your dose of drug information between detailing sessions

October 2022

Lipid-lowering medications

This table summarizes the cost, coverage and usual dosage of lipid-lowering drugs identified in the [2021 Canadian Cardiovascular Society](#) guidelines for the management of dyslipidemia for the prevention of cardiovascular disease in adults. Statins are fully or partially covered under the BC PharmaCare Reference Drug Program (per the [statin decision tree](#)). For details on PharmaCare Special Authority, see the [PharmaCare Special Authority website](#).

Lipid-lowering medications ¹			
Generic & brand name, available strengths	Dosage considerations,* usual dosage range, maximum dose	Annual wholesale cost [†]	BC PharmaCare coverage
STATINS			
atorvastatin LIPITOR , generics 10, 20, 40, 80 mg tablets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 to 40 mg PO once a day with or without food maximum: 80 mg/day contraindicated: active liver disease, unexplained transaminase elevations 	10 mg: \$70 20 mg: \$90 40, 80 mg: \$95	Regular benefit (reference drug)
rosuvastatin CRESTOR , generics 5, 10, 20, 40 mg tablets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 to 40 mg PO once a day with or without food maximum: 40 mg/day contraindicated: active liver disease, unexplained transaminase elevations 	5, 10 mg: \$55 20 mg: \$70 40 mg: \$80	Regular benefit (reference drug)
fluvastatin LESCOL , generics 20, 40 mg capsules <i>brand-name discontinued</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 to 40 mg PO once a day with or without food maximum: 80 mg/day (divided twice a day) contraindicated: active liver disease, unexplained transaminase elevations 	20 mg: \$275 40 mg: \$385	Partially covered [‡] (non-reference drug) Special Authority
lovastatin MEVACOR , generics 20, 40 mg tablets <i>brand-name discontinued</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 to 80 mg PO once a day with evening meal maximum: 80 mg/day contraindicated: active liver disease, unexplained transaminase elevations, concomitant potent CYP3A4 inhibitors 	20 mg: \$430 40 mg: \$785	Partially covered [‡] (non-reference drug) Special Authority
pravastatin PRAVACHOL , generics 10, 20, 40 mg tablets <i>brand-name discontinued</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 to 40 mg PO once a day with or without food maximum: 80 mg/day contraindicated: active liver disease, unexplained transaminase elevations 	10 mg: \$115 20 mg: \$140 40 mg: \$165	Partially covered [‡] (non-reference drug) Special Authority
simvastatin ZOCOR , generics 5, 10, 20, 40, 80 mg tablets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 to 40 mg PO once a day with evening meal maximum: 40 mg/day (80 mg/day is no longer recommended) contraindicated: active liver disease, unexplained transaminase elevations, concomitant potent CYP3A4 inhibitors 	5 mg: \$45 10 mg: \$80 20, 40, 80 mg: \$100	Partially covered [‡] (non-reference drug) Special Authority
EZETIMIBE			
ezetimibe EZETROL , generics 10 mg tablet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 mg PO once a day with or without food maximum: 10 mg/day 	10 mg: \$75	Limited coverage Special Authority Plan W regular benefit
PO by mouth * Dosage adjustments may be required in renal and/or hepatic insufficiency † Cost of generic (if available) without mark-up or professional fee rounded up to the nearest \$5; calculated from McKesson Canada https://www.mckesson.ca/ (accessed September 21, 2022) ‡ Partially covered drugs may be eligible for full coverage by PharmaCare with approved Special Authority			

¹ Health Canada Drug Product Database ² Reference Drug Program Statin Decision Tree

Lipid-lowering medications ¹			
Generic & brand name, available strengths	Dosage considerations,* usual dosage range, maximum dose	Annual wholesale cost [†]	BC PharmaCare coverage
PCSK9 INHIBITORS proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin type 9 inhibitors			
evolocumab REPATHA 140 mg in 1 mL prefilled pen 420 mg in 3.5 mL prefilled cartridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 140 mg subcut every 2 weeks, or 420 mg subcut once a month maximum: 420 mg every 2 weeks for patients with Homozygous Familial Hypercholesterolemia after 12 weeks at usual dose without a clinically meaningful response 	140 mg q2w: \$7,360 420 mg monthly: \$7,360 420 mg q2w: \$15,950	Limited coverage Special Authority
alirocumab PRALUENT 75 mg in 1 mL prefilled pen 150 mg in 1 mL prefilled pen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 75 mg subcut once every 2 weeks, or 300 mg subcut once every 4 weeks maximum: 150 mg subcut every 2 weeks 	75 mg q2w: \$7,275 300 mg q4w: \$7,275 150 mg q2w: \$7,275	Non-benefit
OMEGA-3-FATTY ACID			
icosapent ethyl VASCEPA 1 gram capsule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 grams PO twice a day with meals maximum: 4 grams/day 	4 grams: \$3865	Non-benefit
RESINS bile acid sequestrants			
cholestyramine OLESTYR, generics light powder (sugar-free), regular powder (no generics): 4 grams/sachet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 grams PO one to six times a day mixed in water, non-carbonated beverage or highly liquid food, e.g., soup, apple sauce, yogurt and pudding. maximum: 24 grams/day 	Light (generic cost): 4 to 24 g: \$150 - \$875 Regular (brand cost): 4 to 24 g: \$620 - \$3,710	Regular benefit
colestipol COLESTID 1 gram tablet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 to 16 g PO once a day or in divided doses with meals maximum: 16 grams/day 	2 grams: \$285 16 grams: \$2,270	Regular benefit
FIBRATES			
fenofibrate LIPIDIL MICRO, generics 67, 200 mg capsule <i>brand-name discontinued</i> LIPIDIL SUPRA, generics 100, 160 mg tablets LIPIDIL EZ, generics 48, 145 mg tablets	MICRO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 200 mg PO once a day with main meal maximum: 200 mg/day 	67 mg: \$220 200 mg: \$110	Regular benefit
	SUPRA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 160 mg PO once a day with main meal maximum: 200 mg/day 	160 mg: \$400 200 mg: \$780	
	EZ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 145 mg PO once daily with or without food maximum: 145 mg/day 	48 mg: \$145 145 mg: \$360	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> contraindicated: hepatic impairment, CrCl < 30 ml/min 			
gemfibrozil LOPID, generics 600 mg tablet <i>brand-name discontinued</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 600 mg PO twice a day 30 min before meals maximum: 1500 mg/day (divided twice a day) contraindicated: hepatic and renal impairment 	1200 mg: \$700 1500 mg: \$875	Regular benefit
bezafibrate BEZALIP, generic 400mg SR tablet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 400 mg SR PO once a day with or after meals contraindicated: SCr > 135 µmol/L, CrCl < 60 mL/min, dialysis 	400 mg SR: \$650	Non-benefit
<p>subcut subcutaneously; q2w every 2 weeks; q4w every 4 weeks; PO by mouth; CrCl creatinine clearance; SCr serum creatinine</p> <p>* Dosage adjustments may be required in renal and/or hepatic insufficiency</p> <p>† Cost of generic (if available) without mark-up or professional fee rounded up to the nearest \$5; calculated from McKesson Canada https://www.mckesson.ca/ (accessed September 21, 2022)</p> <p>‡ Partially covered drugs may be eligible for full coverage by PharmaCare with approved Special Authority</p>			

¹ Health Canada Drug Product Database ² Reference Drug Program Statin Decision Tree