

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)	perindopril arginine-amlodipine besylate
Brand name	Viacoram[®]
Manufacturer	Servier Canada Inc.
Indication	Viacoram [®] is used for the treatment of mild to moderate hypertension.
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 perindopril arginine-amlodipine besylate (Viacoram [®]) you can Search the CDR Reports .
Public input start date	August 31, 2016
Public input closing date	September 28, 2016 AT MIDNIGHT
How is the drug taken?	Viacoram [®] is taken orally (via the mouth).
How often is the drug is taken?	Viacoram [®] is taken once daily.

Information about the drug	
General drug and/or drug study information	<p>Hypertension or high blood pressure is a condition in which the long-term force of the blood against the artery walls is high enough that it may eventually cause health problems, such as heart disease.</p> <p>Viacoram[®] is a combination of two active ingredients, perindopril arginine and amlodipine. Perindopril arginine is an angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor. It helps to relax blood vessels and lower blood pressure by preventing ACE from producing angiotensin II which causes narrowing of the blood vessels.</p> <p>Amlodipine is a calcium channel blocker. It blocks the transfer of calcium into the cells of the heart and blood vessels. This helps to relax the blood vessels and to decrease blood pressure.</p> <p>Studies looked at the following to see how safe and effective Viacoram[®] is in treating mild to moderate hypertension:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in blood pressure values • Death related to hypertension • Changes in quality of life • How well the patients remembered to take the drug daily • Side effects
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
Angiotensin Converting Enzyme Inhibitors + Calcium Channel Blocker			
perindopril arginine-amlodipine besylate (Viacoram [®])	Under Review	One tablet daily	\$375 to \$453
verapamil-trandolapril (Tarka [®])	Non-Benefit	One tablet daily	\$679 to \$752
Angiotensin Receptor Blocker + Calcium Channel Blocker			

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
telmisartan-amlodipine (Twynsta [™])	Limited Coverage	One tablet daily	\$287
Angiotensin Converting Enzyme Inhibitors			
benazepril (generics)	Regular Benefit	One to two tablets daily	\$90
captopril (generics)	Regular Benefit	One to two tablets two to three times daily	\$355 to \$698
cilazapril (generics)	Regular Benefit	One to two tablets daily	\$71 to \$164
enalapril (generics)	Regular Benefit	One to two tablets daily	\$90 to \$180
fosinopril (generics)	Regular Benefit	One tablet daily	\$90
lisinopril (generics)	Regular Benefit	One to two tablets daily	\$90
perindopril (Coversyl)	Regular Benefit	One tablet daily	\$90
ramipril (generics)	Regular Benefit	One tablet daily	\$58 to \$73
trandolapril (Mavik [®])	Regular Benefit	One tablet daily	\$264 to \$303
Angiotensin Receptor Blockers			
candesartan cilexetil (generics)	Limited Coverage	One tablet once daily	\$112
eprosartan mesylate (Teveten [®])	Limited Coverage	One tablet once daily	\$437
irbersartan (generics)	Limited Coverage	One tablet once daily	\$119
losartan (generics)	Limited Coverage	One tablet once daily	\$99
olmesartan medoxomil (Olmotec [®])	Limited Coverage	One tablet once daily	\$415
telmisartan (generics)	Limited Coverage	One tablet once daily	\$111
valsartan (generics)	Limited Coverage	One tablet once daily	\$115
Calcium Channel Blockers			
amlodipine (generics)	Regular Benefit	One tablet once daily	\$95 to \$141
felodipine (generics)	Regular Benefit	One tablet once daily	\$213

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
nifedipine (Adalat [®] XL [®] , generics)	Regular Benefit	One to three tablets daily	\$331
diltiazem (generics)	Regular Benefit	One to two tablets daily	\$151 to \$306
verapamil (generics)	Regular benefit	One to two tablets daily	\$307 to \$688

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.