

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)	taliglucerase alfa
Brand name	Elelyso™
Manufacturer	Pfizer Canada Inc.
Indication	Enzyme replacement therapy for Gaucher’s disease
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 taliglucerase alfa (Elelyso™), you can Search the CDR Reports .
Public input start date	Wednesday June 17, 2015
Public input closing date	Wednesday July 15, 2015 AT MIDNIGHT
How is the drug taken?	The drug is taken by an intravenous (into a vein) infusion.
How often is the drug is taken?	The drug is taken once every two weeks.

Information about the drug	
General drug and/or drug study information	<p>Gaucher’s disease is a genetic disorder resulting from a missing or defective enzyme called glucocerebrosidase. The drug is similar to the glucocerebrosidase enzyme and helps to replace the enzyme in patients with Gaucher’s disease.</p> <p>Studies looked at the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Days of work (or school) missed • Number of hospitalizations • Need for surgical treatment • Improvement of parameters relating to the blood, such as hemoglobin concentration or platelet count • Reduction in liver and spleen size • Growth in children • Incidence of bone crises • Decreased use of medications to treat pain • Quality of life • Bad effects and serious bad effects of the drug • Stopping of the drug due to bad effects of the drug • Specific bad effects of the drug, such as allergy-like reactions and reactions due to the infusion of the drug • Deaths
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	Average Annual Cost of Therapy ^a
taliglucerase alfa (Elelyso™)	Under Review	One dose by intravenous infusion every two weeks	\$286,575 ^b
imiglucerase (Cerezyme®)	Non-Benefit exceptional case-by-case coverage	One dose by intravenous infusion every two weeks	\$570,843 to \$604,422
velaglucerase alfa (VPRIV™)	Non-Benefit, exceptional case-by-case coverage	One dose by intravenous infusion every two weeks	\$457,470

Notes:

^aCost based on a patient weight of 55 kilograms. Wastage of partially-used vials is included in the cost calculations.

^bManufacturer's submitted price to the Common Drug Review.

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 \(CDR\)](#)
- 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 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: [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.