

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)	ticagrelor 60 mg tablet
Brand name	Brilinta®
Manufacturer	AstraZeneca Canada Inc.
Indication	Prevention of atherothrombotic events in patients with a history of myocardial infarction
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 ticagrelor (Brilinta®), you can Search the CDR Reports .
Public input start date	Thursday June 23, 2016
Public input closing date	Thursday July 21, 2016 AT MIDNIGHT
How is the drug taken?	Brilinta® is taken orally (via the mouth).
How often is the drug is taken?	Brilinta® is taken twice daily.

Information about the drug	
General drug and/or drug study information	<p>Brilinta® contains a medicine called ticagrelor. This belongs to a group of medicines called antiplatelet agents.</p> <p>Platelets are small fragments circulating in the blood that help to stop bleeding. When a blood vessel is damaged, they clump together to help form a blood clot which stops the bleeding. However, clots can also form inside a damaged blood vessel. This can be dangerous because the clot can cut off the blood supply completely, potentially causing a heart attack or stroke.</p> <p>Brilinta® helps stop the clumping of platelets. This reduces the chance of a blood clot forming, thereby reducing the risk of a blood vessel being blocked.</p> <p>Studies looked at the following to see how safe and effective Brilinta® was in preventing clot-related complications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Death due to complications with the circulatory system (cardiovascular health) • Heart attack • Stroke • Major bleeding • Clot formation • Quality of life • Bad reactions • Serious bad reactions • Patients leaving the trial due to bad reactions • Death
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
ticagrelor (Brilinta®)	Under Review	One tablet twice daily	Confidential price
clopidogrel (generic)	Limited Coverage	One tablet daily	\$187
acetylsalicylic acid (generic)	Regular Benefit	One tablet daily	\$11

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.