

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) | vedolizumab |
| Brand name | Entyvio® |
| Manufacturer | Takeda Canada Inc. |
| Indication | Entyvio® is used to treat ulcerative colitis |
| 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 vedolizumab (Entyvio®) 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? | Entyvio® is taken as an infusion into a vein over a period of time. |
| How often is the drug is taken? | Entyvio® is taken as an infusion into a vein at weeks 0, 2 and 6, then every 4 or 8 weeks thereafter. |

| Information about the drug | |
|--|--|
| General drug and/or drug study information | <p>Entyvio[®] is a monoclonal antibody. It is a laboratory-produced molecule that is engineered to attach to a specific defect in the patient’s cells. Monoclonal antibodies mimic the antibodies that the body naturally produces as part of its immune system response to germs, vaccines and other invaders.</p> <p>Entyvio[®] works to block the movement of gut-directed white blood cells into the gastrointestinal track. This helps control inflammation and symptoms of ulcerative colitis.</p> <p>Entyvio[®] may help to reduce some symptoms, induce and maintain remission, reduce or stop the use of corticosteroids and improve the lining of the large intestine.</p> <p>Studies looked at the following common outcomes to assess if Entyvio[®] is helpful and safe for the treatment of ulcerative colitis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether or not remission was achieved • Whether or not corticosteroid-free remission was achieved • Quality of life • Need for colectomy • Changes in prednisone dosage • Mucosal healing • Bad reactions and serious bad reactions • Serious bad reactions that led to patients leaving the study • Death • Presence of colon cancer and other cancers associated with the lower intestines • Infusion reactions |
| 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 |
| vedolizumab (Entyvio [®]) | Under Review | One weekly infusion at weeks 0, 2, and 6, then every 8 weeks thereafter | Year 1: \$27,632 Thereafter: \$22,451 |
| | | One weekly infusion at weeks 0, 2 and 6, then every 4 weeks thereafter | Year 1: \$48,356 Thereafter: \$44,902 |

| 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 |
| Biologic Agents | | | |
| adalimumab (Humira [®]) | Limited Coverage Non-Benefit for this indication | One injection at week 0 and 2, then every 2 weeks thereafter | Year 1: \$23,321 Thereafter: \$20,212 |
| golimumab (Simponi [®]) | Limited Coverage Under Review for this indication | One injection at week 0 and 2, then every 4 weeks thereafter | Year 1: \$23,940 Thereafter: \$20,748 |
| infliximab (Remicade [®]) | Limited Coverage Non-Benefit for this indication | One infusion at weeks 0, 2 and 6, then every 8 weeks thereafter | Year 1: \$33,182 Thereafter: \$26,960 |
| Aminosalicylates | | | |
| 5-ASA (Asacol [®]) | Regular Benefit | Active: 0.8 to 3 grams daily in divided doses Maintenance: 1.6 grams daily in divided doses | Active: \$364 - \$1,458 Maintenance: \$729 |
| 5-ASA (Mesasal [®]) | Regular Benefit | Active: 1.5 to 3 grams daily in divided doses Maintenance: 1.5 grams daily in divided doses | Active: \$753 to \$1,506 Maintenance: \$753 |
| 5-ASA (Pentasa [®]) | Regular Benefit | Tablet: 2 to 4 grams daily in divided doses Suppository: 1 gram daily | Tablet: \$901 - \$1, 803 Suppository: \$650 |
| 5-ASA (Salofalk [®]) | Regular Benefit | Tablet: 3 to 4 grams daily in divided doses Suppository: 1 to 1.5 grams daily Rectal suspension: 4 grams nightly (active); 2 grams nightly (maintenance) | Tablet: \$1,349 - \$1,798 Suppository: \$730 to \$1,227 Rectal suspension: \$2,720 (active); \$1,360-\$1,601 (Maintenance) |
| olsalazine (Dipentum [®]) | Regular Benefit | Active: 1 to 3 grams daily in divided doses Maintenance: 1 gram daily in divided doses | Active: \$876 - \$2,628 Maintenance : \$876 |
| sulfasalazine (Salazopyrin [®] and generics) | Regular Benefit | Active: 1 to 2 grams three to four times daily Maintenance: 1 gram two to three times daily | Active: \$541 - \$2,197 Maintenance: \$361 - \$824 |

| 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 |
| <i>Immunosuppressants</i> | | | |
| 6-mercaptopurine (Purinethol [®] + generics) | Regular Benefit | One to two tables daily | \$1,118 - \$2,237 |
| azathioprine (Imuran [®] + generics) | Regular Benefit | 2.5mg/kg/ daily | \$379 |
| <i>Topical Corticosteroids</i> | | | |
| betamethasone enema (Betnesol [®]) | Regular Benefit | 5 mg nightly | \$4,000 |
| budesonide (Entocort [®]) | Limited Coverage | 2 mg nightly | \$3,354 |
| hydrocortisone enema (Cortenema [™] , Cortifoam [®]) | Regular Benefit | Enema: 60 mL nightly or every other night | \$1,045 to \$2,089 |
| | | Rectal Aerosol: One dose nightly or every other night | \$1,381 to \$2,763 |
| <i>Systemic Corticosteroids</i> | | | |
| prednisone (generics) | Regular Benefit | 40 mg to 60 mg daily to induce remission; then lower dose | \$100 or less depending on the dose |

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 \(CDR\)](#)
- whether the drug is a good value for the people of B.C. and what it costs
- 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.