

# 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)	<b>vortioxetine</b>
Brand name	Trintellix™
Manufacturer	Lundbeck Canada Inc.
Indication	Trintellix™ is indicated for the treatment of major depressive disorder (MDD)
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 vortioxetine (Trintellix™), you can <a href="#">Search the CDR Reports</a> .
Public input start date	Wednesday, April 22, 2015
Public input closing date	Wednesday, May 20, 2015 <b>AT MIDNIGHT</b>
How is the drug taken?	Trintellix™ is taken orally (by mouth)
How often is the drug is taken	Trintellix™ is taken once per day

Information about the drug	
General drug and/or drug study information	<p>Trintellix™ belongs to a group of medicines called antidepressants. Depression is thought to be caused by an imbalance of certain chemicals that occur naturally in the brain. Trintellix™ works to correct the imbalance in one of these chemicals (serotonin). This may help ease the emotional and physical symptoms of depression.</p> <p>Studies looked at the following common outcomes to assess if Trintellix™ is helpful and safe for the treatment of MDD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvement in depression symptoms using measurement scales such as Montgomery-Asberg Depression Rating Scale (MADRS) or Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression (HAM-D24) scores</li> <li>• Long term remission of depression (maintenance of antidepressant efficacy) using measurement scales such as MADRS score</li> <li>• Improvement in disability function (including work, social and family life) using measurement scales such as the Sheehan Disability Scale (SDS)</li> <li>• Improvement in cognitive symptoms (such as fatigue or loss of interest) using measurement scales such as Digit Symbol Substitution Test (DSST) or the Rey Auditory Verbal Learning Test (RAVLT)</li> <li>• Improvement in quality of life using measurement scales such as Short Form-36 Mental Component Summary (SF-36 MCS)</li> <li>• Bad reactions</li> <li>• Serious bad reactions</li> <li>• Withdrawals due to bad reactions</li> <li>• Notable bad reactions such as suicidal behavior or weight gain</li> </ul>
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
vortioxetine (Trintellix™)	Under Review	Once daily	\$1,036 to \$1,179
<b>Selective Norepinephrine Reuptake Inhibitors (SNRIs)</b>			
desvenlafaxine (Pristiq®)	Non-Benefit	Once daily	\$1,080
duloxetine (Cymbalta®)	Non-Benefit	Once daily	\$759 to \$1,522
venlafaxine ER (generic)	Regular Benefit	Once daily	\$66 to \$263

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
<b>Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs)</b>			
citalopram (generic)	Regular Benefit	Once daily	\$95
escitalopram tablet (CipraleX <sup>®</sup> , generic)	Regular Benefit	Once daily	\$86 to \$183
escitalopram ODT (CipraleX <sup>®</sup> Meltz)	Non-Benefit	Once daily	\$334 to \$712
fluoxetine (generic)	Regular Benefit	Once daily	\$183 to \$730
fluvoxamine (generic)	Regular Benefit	Once daily	\$84 to \$449
paroxetine (generic)	Regular Benefit	Once daily	\$179 to \$369
sertraline (generic)	Regular Benefit	Once daily	\$157 to \$329

ER= extended release; ODT=orally dispersible tablet

### 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.