

BC PharmaCare Drug Information

The drug below is being considered for coverage under the BC PharmaCare program. PharmaCare is a government-funded drug plan that helps B.C. residents with the cost of eligible prescription drugs and medical supplies. For more information about PharmaCare, visit the [PharmaCare website](#).

PharmaCare reviews each drug for treating a specific illness or medical condition (also called an “indication”). If PharmaCare decides to cover a drug, that coverage applies only to the indication(s) specified. In some cases, PharmaCare covers a drug only for people who have not responded to other drugs that treat the same indication.

More information about the PharmaCare drug review process is provided on the last page of this document.

Drug information	
Generic name (scientific name)	avacincaptad pegol
Brand name	Izervay™
Manufacturer	Astellas Pharma Canada
Indication	For the treatment of non-foveal geographic atrophy (GA) secondary to age-related macular degeneration (AMD).
Has the drug been reviewed by CDA-AMC, or will CDA-AMC be reviewing it? (See note below.)	Yes For more information about the CDA-AMC Reimbursement Review (CRR) of avacincaptad pegol (Izervay), Search the CDA-AMC Reports .
Public input start date	Wednesday, December 31, 2025
Public input closing date	Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 11:59 pm
How is the drug taken?	Avacincaptad pegol is given by intravitreal injection. It is injected into the space in the back of the eye called the vitreous cavity.
How often is the drug taken?	Avacincaptad pegol is injected into the affected eye once every month for 12 months, then monthly or every other month thereafter.

Drug information	
General drug and/or drug study information	<p>Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is a progressive condition characterized by central vision loss due to aging. Geographic atrophy (GA) is the advanced form of AMD that can lead to irreversible vision impairment over time due to GA lesions.</p> <p>GA can lead to risk of falls, difficulty reading and driving, difficulty recognizing faces, and poor low-light vision. Eventually, GA can lead to vision loss and blindness.</p> <p>GA is associated with reduced quality of life for patients and their caregivers. There are currently no surgical interventions or pharmacological therapies approved by Health Canada for the treatment of GA secondary to AMD.</p> <p>Avacincaptad pegol is a complement protein 5 (C5) inhibitor, which means it attaches to and blocks the actions of a specific protein in the body to stop its immune system from attacking and destroying its own cells. In terms of GA, avacincaptad pegol works by stopping the C5 protein from breaking into substances that cause inflammation and damage to the cells of the retina.</p> <p>Studies looked at the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change from baseline in GA lesion area over 12 and 18 months, measured by Fundus Autofluorescence (FAF) imaging. • Change in Best-Corrected Visual Acuity (BCVA) and Low-Luminance Best-Corrected Visual Acuity (LL-BCVA) over 12 months, measured by Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study (ETDRS) letters. • Health-Related Quality of Life (HRQoL) measured by the 25-Item Visual Function Questionnaire (VFQ-25). • Bad reactions • Serious bad reactions • Patients leaving the trial due to bad reactions. • Bad reactions of special interest, including choroidal neovascularization (CNV), endophthalmitis, and intraocular inflammation.
Other considerations	None

Note:

CDA-AMC ([Canada's Drug Agency-L'Agence des Médicaments du Canada](#)) is a national organization that reviews drugs on behalf of Canadian public sector plans when drug manufacturers want those plans to provide coverage for the drug. For detailed information about the PharmaCare drug review process, including the role of the CDA-AMC Reimbursement Review (CRR) in that process, visit [How PharmaCare Decides Which Drugs to Cover](#).

Table of Comparators Used to Treat the Same Indication		
Generic Name (Brand Name) of Drug Comparator	Dosage Form	PharmaCare Status (if and how the drug is already covered)
Avacincaptad pegol (Izervay)	Vial	Under 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 \(DBC\)](#) gives advice to the Ministry. The DBC looks at:

- whether the drug is safe and effective
- advice from a national group called [Canada's Drug Agency-L'Agence des médicaments du Canada \(CDA-AMC\)](#)
- what the drug costs and whether it is a good value to the citizens of B.C.
- ethical considerations related to 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:

- existing PharmaCare policies, programs and resources
- the evidence-informed advice of the DBC
- the drugs already covered by PharmaCare to treat similar medical conditions
- the overall cost of covering the drug

For more information about the drug review process in B.C., visit: the [How PharmaCare decides which drugs to cover](#).

This document provides information only.

It does not take the place of advice from a physician or other qualified health care provider.