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)	**baricitinib**
Brand name	**Olumiant®**
Manufacturer	**Eli Lilly Canada Inc.**
Indication	For the treatment of adult patients with severe alopecia areata.
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 baricitinib (Olumiant), Search the CDA-AMC Reports.
Public input start date	**Wednesday, June 26, 2024**
Public input closing date	**Tuesday, July 23, 2024 at 11:59 pm**
How is the drug taken?	Baricitinib is taken orally (by the mouth).
How often is the drug taken?	Baricitinib is taken once daily.

Drug information	
General drug and/or drug study information	Baricitinib is being reviewed by PharmaCare for the treatment of adult patients with severe alopecia areata (AA). AA is a chronic autoimmune disease that causes non-scarring hair loss at the scalp, eyebrows, eyelashes, beard, pubic area, and/or underarms. Autoimmune diseases are caused by an overactive immune system which attacks and damages the body's own tissues. In patients with AA, the immune system attacks the hair follicles. Baricitinib works by targeting specific proteins in the body called Janus kinases (JAKs). JAKs play a role in the body's immune response. By reducing the activity of JAKs, baricitinib helps to reduce inflammation in the hair follicles. This can prevent further damage and encourage hair regrowth in patients with AA. Studies looked at the following: • Proportion of patients achieving a Severity of Alopecia Tools (SALT) score of 20 or less at 36 weeks • Proportion of patients achieving a $SALT_{50}$ (at least 50% reduction in SALT score from baseline) at 36 weeks • Clinician-reported Outcome (ClinRO) Measures for Eyebrow (EB) and Eyelash (EL) Hair Loss: Proportion of patients achieving a score of 0 or 1 with at least 2-point reduction from baseline, among patients with a baseline score of at least 2, at 36 weeks • Changes from baseline in Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS) Anxiety and Depression scores at 36 weeks • Changes from baseline in Skindex-16 Adapted for Alopecia Areata (Skindex-16 AA) Symptoms, Emotions, and Functioning scores at 36 weeks • Bad reactions • Serious bad reactions • Patients leaving the trial due to bad reactions • Bad reactions of special interest, such as infections, cardiovascular events and venous blood clots, holes in the digestive tract (gastrointestinal perforations), and cancers
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.

Cost of the drug 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)**	**Dosage Form**	**Usual Dose**	**Annual Cost of Therapy[a]**
baricitinib (Olumiant)	Under Review	Tablet	Once daily	$21,939 to $43,878[b]
Recommended Practice				
Janus kinase (JAK) Inhibitor				
ritlecitinib (Litfulo)	Non-Benefit[c]	Capsule	Once daily	$18,142[d]
Topical Therapy				
minoxidil 5% (Generic)	Non-Benefit	Topical Foam	Applied to the affected area twice daily	$375[d]
Actual Practice (Off-label Use)				
Antihypertensives				
minoxidil (Loniten)	Regular Benefit	Tablet	Daily, in divided doses	$414
Corticosteroids				
mometasone (Generic)	Regular Benefit, Subject to LCA	Ointment	Application of a thin film of ointment to the affected area once daily	$296

[a] All prices as per PharmaCare formulary, unless otherwise stated. All weight-based dosing assumes a body weight of 75 kg.
[b] Manufacturer's submitted price, plus 5% markup.
[c] Before the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) can consider a drug as an eligible benefit under the PharmaCare program, an evidence-informed review is conducted. As a first step in this process, the manufacturer must make a submission to the Ministry. At the present time, the Ministry has not received such a submission from the manufacturer of ritlecitinib.
[d] Price as per CDA-AMC Pharmacoeconomic Review Report for baricitinib.

Cost of the drug 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)**	**Dosage Form**	**Usual Dose**	**Annual Cost of Therapy[a]**
prednisone (generics)	Regular Benefit	Tablet	Once daily	$16 to $68
triamcinolone acetonide (Kenalog)	Regular Benefit, Subject to LCA	Intralesional injection	Once weekly	$218
Immuno-suppressants/-modulators				
azathioprine (Generic)	Regular Benefit, Subject to LCA	Tablet	Once daily by weight in mg/kg	$307 to $818
cyclosporine (Generic)	Non-benefit for the treatment of AA	Capsule	Once daily by weight in mg/kg	$1,815 to $4,548
methotrexate (Generic)	Regular Benefit, Subject to LCA	Tablet	Once weekly	$56 to $141
mycophenolate mofetil (Generic)	Non-benefit for the treatment of AA	Capsule	Twice daily	$1,170 to $1,756
Janus kinase (JAK) Inhibitor				
tofacitinib (Generic)	Non-benefit for the treatment of AA	Tablet	Twice daily	$4,591
Topical Prostaglandin Analogues				
latanoprost (Generic)	Regular Benefit, Subject to LCA	Ophthalmic solution	1 drop once daily on each eye	$152
bimatoprost 0.03% (Vistitan)	Non-Benefit	Ophthalmic solution	1 drop once daily on each eye	$134[e]

[e] Price as per CDA-AMC Pharmacoeconomic Review Report for baricitinib.

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.