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)	**benralizumab**
Brand name	**Fasenra®**
Manufacturer	AstraZeneca Canada Inc.
Indication	As an add-on treatment for adult patients with relapsing or refractory eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis (EGPA)
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 benralizumab (Fasenra), Search the CDA-AMC Reports.
Public input start date	**Wednesday, October 28, 2026**
Public input closing date	**Tuesday, November 24, 2026, at 11:59 pm**
How is the drug taken?	Benralizumab is given by subcutaneous (under the skin) injection.
How often is the drug taken?	Benralizumab is injected once every 4 weeks.

Drug information	
General drug and/or drug study information	The Ministry of Health is reviewing benralizumab as an add-on treatment for adult patients with relapsing or refractory eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis (EGPA). EGPA is a rare immune-mediated disease in which certain white blood cells, called eosinophils, become overactive and cause inflammation throughout the body that can lead to organ damage over time. EGPA can cause inflammation of small and medium-sized blood vessels (vasculitis) and may affect the lungs, sinuses, nerves, heart, digestive system, and other organs. In relapsing EGPA, symptoms return after a period of improvement. Patients progress at different rates but typically experience acute relapses in between remission periods, with relapses increasing the likelihood of developing organ damage. In refractory EGPA, the disease does not respond adequately to treatment. Goals of treatment are to induce remission, prevent relapses, prevent organ damage, maintain remission and reduce the risk of mortality. Benralizumab attaches to the interleukin-5 (IL-5) receptor on eosinophils, a type of white blood cell involved in the inflammation associated with EGPA, and prompts the immune system to remove these cells. This may help reduce the inflammation and tissue damage associated with EGPA.
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)**
benralizumab (Fasenra)	Pre-filled syringe Pre-filled autoinjector	Under Review for EGPA Limited Coverage for severe eosinophilic asthma
Primary Comparator: Biologics		
mepolizumab (Nucala)	Pre-filled syringe Pre-filled autoinjector	Under Review for EGPA and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) Limited Coverage for severe eosinophilic asthma
Rituximab (Truxima, Riximyo and Ruxience)	Solution for infusion	Non Benefit for EGPA[a] Limited Coverage for multiple indications
Add-on Standard of Care Medical Therapy		
Systemic Corticosteroids		
prednisone (generics)	Tablet	Regular Benefit subject to LCA
Immunosuppressants		
azathioprine (generics)	Tablet	Regular Benefit subject to LCA
cyclophosphamide (Procytox)	Tablet	Regular Benefit
methotrexate (generics)	Tablet Vial	Regular Benefit, Subject to LCA
mycophenolate mofetil (generics)	Capsule Tablet	Non-Benefit for EGPA Limited Coverage Subject to LCA for autoimmune hepatitis and bullous pemphigoid

[a] Limited Coverage for rheumatoid arthritis, granulomatosis with polyangiitis or microscopic polyangiitis, relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis, neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorder and generalized myasthenia gravis,
Special Authority requests for the treatment of other moderate to severe autoimmune conditions not specified above in patients who have had treatment failure or intolerance to immunosuppressants, when applicable, will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The Drug Review Process in B.C.

A manufacturer submits a request to the Ministry of Health (Ministry).

An independent national organization called Canada's Drug Agency (CDA-AMC) provides evidence-based recommendations to public drug plans across Canada through its reimbursement review process.

As part of the CDA-AMC's Clinical Reimbursement Review process, the Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC) makes reimbursement recommendations for non-oncology pharmaceuticals to the participating federal, provincial, and territorial publicly funded drug plans. In developing its recommendations, the CDEC considers:

- whether the drug is safe and effective
- 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 a BC PharmaCare coverage decision by considering:

- existing BC PharmaCare policies, programs and resources
- the evidence-informed advice of the CDA-AMC
- the recommendations and reimbursement conditions of the CDEC
- if a Ministry Initiated review, the advice of an independent expert group called the Drug Benefit Council (DBC)
- BC-specific patient input collected through the Your Voice website
- drugs already covered by BC PharmaCare that treat similar medical conditions
- the overall cost of covering the drug

Visit BC PharmaCare and Drug reviews for more information.

This document provides information only.
It does not take the place of advice from a physician or other qualified health care provider.