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)	**birch triterpenes topical gel**
Brand name	**TBC (to be confirmed)**
Manufacturer	Chiesi Canada Corp.
Indication	For the treatment of wounds associated with dystrophic and junctional epidermolysis bullosa in patients 6 months of age and older.
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 birch triterpenes gel, Search the CDA-AMC Reports.
Public input start date	**Wednesday, November 18, 2026**
Public input closing date	**Tuesday, December 15, 2026, at 11:59 pm**
How is the drug taken?	Birch triterpenes is a topical gel applied approximately 1 mm thick directly to the wound or to a sterile, non-adhesive wound dressing, which is then placed over the wound.
How often is the drug taken?	Each tube of birch triterpenes gel is for one-time use only. Treatment may be applied to all open wounds and continued until the wounds have healed.

Drug information	
General drug and/or drug study information	Birch triterpenes topical gel is being reviewed by the Ministry of Health for the treatment of wounds associated with dystrophic and junctional epidermolysis bullosa in patients 6 months of age and older. Dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa (DEB) and junctional epidermolysis bullosa (JEB) are rare, inherited conditions that make the skin extremely fragile and prone to blistering and wounds from minor friction or injury. In DEB, the skin separates in a deeper layer of the skin, while in JEB, it separates where the outer layer of skin attaches to the layer beneath it. Both forms can cause painful, recurring wounds that may be slow to heal. Current treatment for DEB and JEB focuses on supportive wound care, including dressings, pain and itch management, infection control, and nutritional support. Birch triterpenes is thought to promote wound healing by reducing inflammation and helping skin cells mature and move into the wounded area, which helps the wound close, although its precise mechanism of action is not known. It is used in addition to existing wound care rather than replacing it.
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 *[no comparators provided]*		
Generic Name (Brand Name) of Drug Comparator	**Dosage Form**	**PharmaCare Status (if and how the drug is already covered)**
birch triterpenes (TBC)	Single-use sterile tube	Under Review

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.