

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)	donanemab
Brand name	TBC (to be confirmed)
Manufacturer	Eli Lilly Canada Inc.
Indication	For the treatment of Alzheimer's disease. Treatment with donanemab should be initiated in patients with mild cognitive impairment or mild dementia stage of disease.
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 of donanemab, Search the CDA-AMC Reports .
Public input start date	Monday, December 23, 2024
Public input closing date	Wednesday, February 5, 2025, at 11:59 pm
How is the drug given?	Donanemab is given as an intravenous (IV) infusion. It is put directly into the bloodstream through a vein, using a needle and thin tube.
How often is the drug given?	Donanemab is infused once every four weeks for up to 18 months.

Drug information

General drug and/or drug study information

Donanemab is being reviewed by PharmaCare for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease. Treatment with donanemab should be initiated in patients with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) or in the mild dementia stage of the disease.

Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia. It primarily affects older adults. It is a progressive brain disorder that slowly destroys memory and other important mental functions. In Alzheimer's disease, brain cells shrink and are replaced by dense, irregularly-shaped spots called plaques. Thread-like tangles also develop within healthy brain cells, and eventually destroy them.

Patients with MCI have impaired memory and difficulties with language. They may forget recent events or conversations, but are still able to function independently at this stage. The mild dementia phase of Alzheimer's disease is characterized by further memory loss, difficulties with functioning independently, and changes in behaviour.

Donanemab works by targeting a specific protein called amyloid-beta, which forms sticky plaques in the brains of people with Alzheimer's disease. Donanemab binds to these plaques and helps the immune system to clear them from the brain.

Studies looked at the following:

- Changes in cognition and function as measured by changes in Integrated Alzheimer's Disease Rating Scale (iADRS) scores from baseline to 76 weeks
- Changes in cognition and function as measured by changes in Clinical Dementia Rating Scale–Sum of Boxes (CDR-SB) scores from baseline to 76 weeks.
- Bad reactions
- Serious bad reactions
- Patients leaving the trial due to bad reactions
- Bad reactions of special interest: Amyloid-related imaging abnormalities-edema (ARIA-E) events^a, amyloid related imaging abnormalities-hemosiderin deposition (ARIA-H) events^b

^a ARIA-E events are side-effects associated with some Alzheimer's medications. These events involve swelling in the brain due to fluid buildup.

Drug information	
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 ^c
donanemab (TBC)	Under Review	Vial	Once every four weeks for up to 18 months.	TBC (to be confirmed)
<i>Cholinesterase inhibitors</i>				
donepezil (generics)	Limited Coverage	Tablet	Once daily	\$181
galantamine (generics)	Limited Coverage	Capsule	Once daily	\$452
rivastigmine (generics)	Limited Coverage	Capsule	Twice daily	\$514

^b ARIA-H events are side effects associated with some Alzheimer's medications which involve small brain bleeds or microhemorrhages.

^c All prices as per PharmaCare Formulary, unless otherwise specified.

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.