

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)	Pegcetacoplan
Brand name	TBC (To Be Confirmed)
Manufacturer	Apellis Canada, Inc.
Indication	For the treatment of geographic atrophy (GA) secondary to age-related macular degeneration (AMD) in adults.
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 pegcetacoplan (TBC), Search the CDA-AMC Reports .
Public input start date	Wednesday, November 20, 2024
Public input closing date	Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at 11:59PM
How is the drug taken?	Pegcetacoplan 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?	Pegcetacoplan is injected into the affected eye once every other month.

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 an 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. 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>Pegcetacoplan is a complement protein 5 (C5) inhibitor, which means it works by attaching to and blocking the actions of a specific protein in the body, stopping your immune system from attacking and destroying its own cells.</p> <p>Studies looked at the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change from baseline to month 12 in total area of GA lesion in the study eye, based on Fundus Autofluorescence (FAF) images • Change from baseline in uncorrected monocular maximum reading speed, assessed by Minnesota Low-Vision Reading Test (MNREAD) or Radner Reading Charts • Change from baseline in mean Functional Reading Independence (FRI) Index score and Normal-Luminance Best-Corrected Visual Acuity (NL BCVA) • Change from baseline in the mean threshold sensitivity of all points measured by mesopic microperimetry • Health-related quality of life (HRQoL) measured by the National Eye Institute 25-Item Visual Function Questionnaire (NEI VFQ-25) • Bad reactions • Serious bad reactions • Patients leaving the trial due to bad reactions • Bad reactions of special interest, including exudative AMD, intraocular inflammation, and ischemic optic neuropathy
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
pegcetacoplan (TBC)	Under Review	Solution for intravitreal injection	Single injection to each affected eye once every other month	TBC

^a Price as per CDA Pharmacoeconomic Review Report for pegcetacoplan (TBC).

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.