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)	**rimegepant**
Brand name	**Nurtec® ODT (orally disintegrating tablets)**
Manufacturer	Pfizer Canada ULC
Indication	Acute treatment of migraine with or without aura 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 rimegepant (Nurtec ODT), 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?	Nurtec ODT is an orally disintegrating tablet. It is taken by placing one tablet on or under the tongue and allowing it to dissolve.
How often is the drug taken?	The recommended dose is one tablet, as needed, once daily. The maximum dose per day is one tablet. The safety of taking more than 15 doses in a 30-day period has not been established.

Drug information	
General drug and/or drug study information	Nurtec ODT is being reviewed by the Ministry of Health for the acute treatment of migraine, with or without aura, in adults. Migraine is a complex neurological disease that can cause moderate to severe headache and other disabling symptoms. These headaches are often accompanied by other symptoms such as nausea or vomiting, dizziness, and sensory hypersensitivity. Migraines can occur with or without sensory disturbances, called auras, which present as flashes of light, blind spots, and other vision changes, and/or tingling in the hands or face. During a migraine attack, levels of a protein called calcitonin gene-related peptide (CGRP) increase. CGRP contributes to pain signalling and inflammation associated with migraine. Rimegepant blocks CGRP from attaching to its receptor, which may help reduce migraine pain and other migraine symptoms. Studies looked at the following: • Freedom from pain at 2 hours post-dose • Freedom from most bothersome symptoms (MBS) at 2 hours post-dose • Pain relief at 2 hours post-dose • Sustained pain relief from 2 to 24 hours post-dose • Sustained freedom from MBS, 2 to 24 hours post-dose • Ability to function normally at 2 hours post-dose • Use of rescue medication within 24 hours post-dose • Bad reactions • Serious bad reactions • Patients leaving the trial due to bad reactions • Bad reactions of special interest: high blood pressure and Raynaud's phenomenon (Raynaud's phenomenon is a condition where small blood vessels in the fingers and toes spasm and narrow, temporarily limiting blood flow.)
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)**
rimegepant (Nurtec ODT)	Tablet	Under Review
Calcitonin gene-related peptide receptor antagonists		
ubrogepant (Ubrelvy)	Tablet	Under Review
Triptans		
almotriptan (generics)	Tablet	Regular Benefit, Subject to LCA
eletriptan (generics)	Tablet	Non-Benefit
frovatriptan succinate (generics)	Tablet	Non-Benefit
naratriptan (generics)	Tablet	Regular Benefit, Subject to LCA
rizatriptan (generics)	Orally disintegrating tablet	Regular Benefit, Subject to LCA
sumatriptan succinate (generics)	Tablet	Regular Benefit, Subject to LCA
sumatriptan (generics)	Subcutaneous injection	Limited Coverage, Subject to LCA
sumatriptan (Imitrex)	Nasal spray	Regular Benefit
zolmitriptan (generics, Zomig)	Tablet Oral disintegrating tablet	Regular Benefit, Subject to LCA
zolmitriptan (Zomig)	Nasal Spray	Regular Benefit

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.