

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)	ritlecitinib
Brand name	Litfulo™
Manufacturer	Pfizer Canada ULC
Indication	For the treatment of adults and adolescents 12 years and older with severe alopecia areata.
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 ritlecitinib (Litfulo), Search the CDA-AMC Reports .
Public input start date	Wednesday, April 29, 2026
Public input closing date	Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at 11:59 pm
How is the drug taken?	Ritlecitinib is taken orally (by the mouth).
How often is the drug taken?	Ritlecitinib is taken once daily.

Drug information

General drug and/or drug study information

Ritlecitinib is being reviewed by the Ministry of Health for the treatment of alopecia areata (AA) in adults and adolescents aged 12 years and older. AA is a chronic autoimmune disease that causes non-scarring hair loss at the scalp, eyebrows, eyelashes, beard, pubic area, and/or underarms.

Autoimmune diseases are caused by an overactive immune system which attacks and damages the body's own tissues. In patients with AA, the immune system attacks the hair follicles.

Ritlecitinib works by blocking specific proteins involved in immune-system signalling, called Janus kinase 3 (JAK3) and Tec tyrosine kinases. These proteins help drive the immune response that causes immune cells to attack hair follicles in AA. Reducing signalling through these proteins may prevent further damage and encourage hair regrowth in patients with AA. Studies looked at the following:

- Severity of Alopecia Tool (SALT) 20^a at Weeks 24 and 48
- SALT 10^a at Weeks 24 and 48
- 75% improvement in SALT^a score at weeks 24 and 48
- Changes from baseline in SALT^a scores at weeks 24 and 48
- Eyebrow Assessment (EBA) scores at weeks 24 and 48
- Eyelash Assessment (ELA) scores at weeks 24 and 48
- Changes from baseline in Alopecia Areata Patient Priority Outcomes (AAPPO)^b scales at weeks 24 and 48
- Proportion of patients with Patient Global Impression of Change (PGI-C)^c response at weeks 24 and 48
- Changes from baseline in depression and anxiety scales of the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS)^d
- Bad reactions
- Serious bad reactions
- Patients leaving the trial due to bad reactions
- Bad reactions of special interest such as neurological (related to the nervous system), audiological (related to hearing and balance), and dermatological (related to skin) events.

^a SALT 10 and SALT 20 are outcomes based on the Severity of Alopecia Tool (SALT), a clinical measure of scalp hair loss used in alopecia areata. SALT scores range from 0 to 100, reflecting the percentage of the scalp without hair. SALT 10 means that 10% or less of the scalp is affected by hair loss, and SALT 20 means that 20% or less of the scalp is affected.

^b The Alopecia Areata Patient Priority Outcomes (AAPPO) is a short questionnaire completed by patients that asks about the effects of alopecia areata that matter to them, such as emotional impact, confidence, and satisfaction with hair regrowth in visible areas like the scalp, eyebrows, and eyelashes.

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](#).

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)
ritlecitinib (Litfulo)	Capsule	Under Review
<i>Janus kinase (JAK) Inhibitor</i>		
baricitinib (Olumiant)	Tablet	Under Review
Off-Label Treatments		
<i>Intralesional Corticosteroids</i>		
triamcinolone acetonide (Kenalog)	Vial	Regular Benefit, Subject to LCA
<i>Immunosuppressants</i>		
methotrexate (generic)	Tablet	Regular Benefit, Subject to LCA
azathioprine (generic)	Tablet	Regular Benefit, Subject to LCA

^c The Patient Global Impression of Change (PGI-C) is a simple patient-reported test that asks people to rate how their condition has changed since starting treatment.

^d The Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS) is a short questionnaire used to screen for symptoms of anxiety and depression. It is completed by patients and consists of 14 questions, with 7 questions focusing on anxiety and 7 on depression.

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)
cyclosporine (generic)	Capsule	Non-Benefit for AA Limited Coverage for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, ocular inflammatory disease, psoriasis, and nephrotic syndrome Subject to LCA
mycophenolate (generic)	Capsule	Non-Benefit for AA Limited Coverage for the treatment of autoimmune hepatitis and bullous pemphigoid Subject to LCA
Corticosteroids		
prednisone (generic)	Tablet	Regular Benefit, Subject to LCA
methylprednisolone (Medrol)	Tablet	Regular Benefit, Subject to LCA
mometasone (generic)	Ointment	Regular Benefit, Subject to LCA
Topical Cream		
clobetasol cream 0.05% (clobetasol propionate)	Topical Cream	Regular Benefit, Subject to LCA
minoxidil (generic)	Topical Foam	Non-Benefit
Antihypertensives		
minoxidil (Loniten)	Tablet	Regular Benefit
JAK Inhibitor		

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)
tofacitinib (generic)	Tablet	Non-Benefit for AA Limited Coverage for the treatment of ankylosing spondylitis, psoriatic arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, and ulcerative colitis Subject to LCA
<i>Topical prostaglandin analogues</i>		
latanoprost (generic)	Ophthalmic Solution	Regular Benefit, Subject to LCA
bimatoprost (Lumigan)	Ophthalmic Solution	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.