

BC PharmaCare

Drug Information

The drug below is being considered for possible coverage under the B.C. PharmaCare program. PharmaCare is a government-funded drug plan that helps British Columbians with the cost of eligible prescription drugs and specific medical supplies. For more information on PharmaCare, visit [Ministry of Health - PharmaCare](#).

PharmaCare reviews each drug for treating a specific illness or medical condition (known as an “indication”). If a decision is made to cover the drug, it will be only for that illness or condition.

In some cases, PharmaCare may cover a drug only for people who have the illness or condition and have not responded to other drugs used to treat that illness or condition.

For more information on PharmaCare’s drug coverage review process, see the last page of this information sheet.

Information about the drug	
Generic name (scientific name)	tezepelumab
Brand name	Tezpire™
Manufacturer	AstraZeneca Canada Inc.
Indication	Asthma
Has the drug been reviewed by the Common Drug Review (CDR)? (see the note below this table.)	Yes For more information about the CDR’s review of Tezepelumab (Tezpire), you can Search the CDR Reports .
Public input start date	Wednesday, August 31, 2022
Public input closing date	Wednesday, September 28, 2022, AT MIDNIGHT
How is the drug taken?	Tezepelumab is injected subcutaneously (under the skin).
How often is the drug injected?	Tezepelumab is injected once every four weeks.

Information about the drug	
General drug and/or drug study information	<p>Tezepelumab is used as an add-on maintenance treatment in adults and adolescents 12 years and older with severe asthma. Asthma is a common, chronic respiratory disease. Patients with asthma typically experience symptoms such as wheezing, shortness of breath, chest tightness or cough, and difficulty breathing.</p> <p>Tezepelumab works by blocking the action of a protein called thymic stromal lymphopoiectin (TSLP). People with asthma have higher levels of TSLP and it is believed that blocking its actions can improve and lessen asthma symptoms.</p> <p>Studies looked at the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annualised Asthma Exacerbation Rates (AAER). To annualize something means to convert a short-term rate into an annual rate. • Rate of asthma exacerbation associated with emergency department visits, urgent care visits, or hospitalizations • Changes from baseline in pulmonary (lung) function • Reductions in oral corticosteroid use • Reductions in rescue medication use • Changes in health-related quality of life (HRQoL) • Changes from baseline in symptoms as measured by the ACQ-6 (Asthma Control Questionnaire-6) • Bad reactions • Serious bad reactions • Patients leaving the trial due to bad reactions • Bad reactions of special interest (For example, infections, injection site reactions, and hypersensitivity reactions)
Other considerations	None.

Note:

The Common Drug Review (CDR) is a national organization that reviews drugs on behalf of Canadian public sector plans when manufacturers want to have the jurisdictions provide coverage for the drugs. For detailed information on B.C. PharmaCare’s drug review process, including the role of the CDR in that process, see [The Drug Review Process in B.C. - Overview](#).

Cost of the drug under review 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
Tezepelumab (Tezpire)	Under Review	Pre-filled syringe for SC injection	Once every 4 weeks	\$26,460 ^b
		Pre-filled pen for SC injection		
Biologics				
Benralizumab (Fasenra)	Limited Coverage	Pre-filled syringe for SC injection	Every 4 weeks for first 3 doses, then once every 8 weeks	Year 1: \$32,924 Year 2+: \$26,751
Dupilumab (Dupixent)	Under Review	Pre-filled syringe for SC injection	Every 2 weeks	Year 1: \$27,205 ^c Year 2+: \$26,197
Mepolizumab (Nucala)	Limited Coverage	Vial of powder for SC injection	Every 4 weeks	\$28,673
		Pre-filled syringe for SC injection		
		Pre-filled autoinjector for SC injection		
Omalizumab (Xolair)	Non-benefit	Vial of powder for SC injection	Every 2 or 4 weeks	\$8,913 to \$53,479
	Non-benefit	Pre-filled syringe for SC injection		\$9,008 to \$25,913
Reslizumab (Cinqair)	Non-benefit	Vial of solution for IV infusion	3 mg/kg every 4 weeks	\$8,320 to \$33,280 ^d
Inhaled Corticosteroids				
Beclomethasone dipropionate (QVAR)	Regular Benefit	MDI (200 doses)	Twice daily	\$146 to \$1,167

Glossary: **SC**: Subcutaneous, meaning under the skin, as in a subcutaneous injection. **IV**: Intravenous, meaning through a vein, as in an intravenous infusion. **MDI**: Metered dose inhaler; **MDPI**: Multi-dose powder inhaler.

^a All prices as per the B.C. PharmaCare formulary unless otherwise specified.

^b Price as per CDR Pharmacoeconomic Review Report for tezepelumab plus 5% markup.

^c Manufacturer's submitted price plus 5% markup.

^d Price as per CDR Pharmacoeconomic Review Report for tezepelumab. Weight-based dosing assumes a weight range of 30 to 120 kg.

Cost of the drug under review 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
Budesonide (Pulmicort Turbuhaler)	Regular Benefit	MDPI (200 doses)	Twice daily	\$269 to \$392
Ciclesonide (Alvesco)	Regular Benefit	MDI (120 doses)	Twice daily	\$314 to \$2081
Fluticasone furoate (Arnuity Ellipta)	Regular Benefit	MDPI (30 doses)	Once daily	\$562 to \$1,124
Fluticasone propionate (Flovent Diskus)	Regular Benefit	MDPI (60 doses)	Twice daily	\$373 to \$1,002
Fluticasone propionate (Flovent HFA)	Regular Benefit	MDI (120 doses)	Twice daily	\$346 to \$592
Mometasone furoate (Asmanex Twisthaler)	Regular Benefit	MDPI (60 doses)	Once daily	\$243 to \$486
Inhaled Corticosteroid (ICS)/Long-acting beta2-adrenergic agonist (LABA) Combinations				
Indacaterol acetate/mometasone furoate (Ateectura Breezhaler)	Limited Coverage	Inhalation pwd hard capsules (30 doses)	One capsule for inhalation daily	\$423 to \$728
Budesonide/formoterol fumarate dihydrate (Symbicort Turbuhaler)	Limited Coverage	MDPI (120 dose pack)	Low: 2 inhalations twice daily	\$892
			Medium: 2 to 4 inhalations daily	\$580 to \$1,160
			High: > 4 inhalations daily	>\$1,160
Fluticasone propionate/salmeterol (Advair)	Limited Coverage	MDI (120 pack)	Low: 125/25 mcg, 1 inhalation twice daily	\$718
			Medium: 125/25 mcg, 2 inhalations twice daily	\$1,436

Cost of the drug under review 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
			High: 250/25 mcg, 2 inhalations twice daily	\$2,038
Fluticasone propionate/salmeterol (generic)	Limited Coverage	MDPI (60 doses)	Low: 100/50 mcg, 1 inhalation twice daily	\$557
			Medium: 250/50 mcg, 1 inhalation twice daily	\$667
			High: 500/50 mcg, 1 inhalation twice daily	\$947
Fluticasone furoate/vilanterol (Breo Ellipta)	Limited Coverage	MDPI (30 doses)	Medium: 100/25 mcg, 1 inhalation once daily	\$1,223
			High: 200/25 mcg, 1 inhalation once daily	\$1,902
Mometasone furoate/formoterol fumarate dihydrate (Zenhale)	Limited Coverage	MDI (120 doses)	Medium: 100/5 mcg, 2 inhalations twice daily	\$1,262
			High: 200/5 mcg, 2 inhalations twice daily	\$1,553
Long-Acting Beta2-Adrenergic Agonists (LABA)				
Salmeterol xinafoate (Serevent Diskhaler)	Limited Coverage	Dry powder inhaler (60 doses)	50 mcg twice daily	\$880
Formoterol fumarate (Foradil)	Limited Coverage	Dry powder capsules for inhalation (60 doses)	12 mcg twice daily	\$733
Formoterol fumarate dihydrate (Oxeze Turbuhaler)	Limited Coverage	MDPI (60 doses)	6 to 12 mcg twice daily	\$447 to \$595
ICS/LABA/ Long-acting muscarinic antagonist (LAMA) Combinations				
Indacaterol/glycopyrronium/mometasone furoate (Enerzair Breezhaler)	Limited Coverage	Inhalation pwd hard capsules (30 doses)	One capsule inhaled daily	\$1,351

Cost of the drug under review 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
Leukotriene Receptor Antagonists (LTRA)				
Montelukast (Singulair, generics)	Non-Benefit	Chew Tab Chew Tab Tablet	Age 6-14: 5 mg daily Age 15+: 10 mg daily	\$112 to \$154 ^e
Long-Acting Muscarinic Antagonists (LAMA)				
Tiotropium (Spiriva Respimat)	Regular Benefit	Solution for inhalation (60 doses)	2 inhalations once daily	\$713
Oral corticosteroids				
Prednisone (generic)	Regular Benefit	Tablet	5 to 60 mg daily	\$15 to \$100

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 the [Common Drug Review \(CDR\)](#)
- what the drug costs and whether it is a good value for the people of B.C.
- ethical considerations involved with 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:

- the existing PharmaCare policies, programs and resources
- the evidence-informed advice of the DBC
- the drugs already covered by PharmaCare that are used to treat similar medical conditions
- the overall cost of covering the drug

For more information about the B.C. Drug Review Process, visit: [The Drug Review Process in B.C. - Overview](#).

This document is intended for information only.

It does not take the place of advice from a physician or other qualified health care provider.

^e Price as per CDR Pharmacoeconomic Review Report for Tezepelumab.