

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)	tirzepatide
Brand name	Zepbound®
Manufacturer	Eli Lilly Canada Inc.
Indication	To treat moderate to severe obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) in adults with obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30 kg/m ² or greater) without diabetes.
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 tirzepatide (Zepbound), Search the CDA-AMC Reports .
Public input start date	Wednesday, July 29, 2026
Public input closing date	Tuesday, August 25, 2026 at 11:59 pm
How is the drug given?	Tirzepatide is given by subcutaneous (under the skin) injection.
How often is the drug given?	Tirzepatide is injected once weekly.

Drug information	
General drug and/or drug study information	Tirzepatide is being reviewed by the Ministry of Health for the treatment of moderate to severe obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) in adults with obesity (BMI of 30 kg/m² or greater) without diabetes. OSA is a condition in which the airway becomes blocked during sleep, causing repeated pauses in breathing that can disrupt sleep and reduce oxygen levels. It is more common in people with obesity because excess body weight can make the airway more likely to narrow or collapse during sleep. Over time, untreated OSA can place strain on the body and increase the risk of serious health problems, including heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, and type 2 diabetes. Tirzepatide helps treat OSA by reducing body weight, which can make the airway less likely to become blocked during sleep and reduce interruptions in breathing. Studies looked at the following: • Changes from baseline to week 52 in apnea-hypopnea index (AHI) scores. The apnea-hypopnea index (AHI) measures the average number of breathing interruptions per hour of sleep. • Proportion of patients with at least a 50% AHI reduction at week 52 • Percentage changes in body weight from baseline to week 52 • Proportion of participants achieving OSA remission at week 52 • Changes from baseline to week 52 in Epworth Sleepiness Scale (ESS) scores. The ESS is a self-administered questionnaire used to measure your general level of daytime sleepiness. • Changes from baseline to week 52 in Functional Outcomes of Sleep Questionnaire (FOSQ) Total Scores^a • Major adverse cardiovascular events (MACE) • Changes from baseline to 48 weeks in systolic blood pressure • Bad reactions • Serious bad reactions • Patients leaving the trial due to bad reactions • Bad reactions of special interest: Gastrointestinal disorders, gallbladder disorders, cardiac rhythm abnormalities, psychiatric adverse events, hypersensitivity reactions, renal (kidney) disorders.
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)
tirzepatide (Zepbound)	Multi-dose prefilled pen	Under Review for OSA and for chronic weight management.
<i>There are currently no pharmacological treatments indicated for OSA in Canada. Standard management consists of non-drug interventions such as positive airway pressure (PAP/CPAP) therapy, oral appliances, lifestyle modification, and surgery in selected patients.</i>		

^a The Functional Outcomes of Sleep Questionnaire (FOSQ) is a disease-specific, self-reported quality-of-life tool used to measure how excessive daytime sleepiness affects daily activities. It evaluates everyday impairments and monitors how well patients respond to sleep treatments.

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.