



COPD: Inhaled Medications

February 2025

This is an update to the BC Provincial Academic Detailing (PAD) Service's April 2024 "COPD Inhaled Medications Table". For complete details on the stepwise approach to PharmaCare coverage of COPD inhalers in British Columbia, please see the BC [PharmaCare COPD website](#). The Special Authority form "Inhalers for COPD" can be found [here](#).

COPD: Inhaled medications marketed in Canada				
Medication	Brand name, <i>inhaler device</i> (dose per inhalation)	Usual adult dose	Annual cost	BC PharmaCare coverage
SABA short-acting beta₂ agonist				
salbutamol	Ventolin HFA MDI, generics (100 mcg)	1-2 inh QID (max 8 inh/day)	\$25-\$95	Regular benefit
	Ventolin Diskus (200 mcg)	1 inh every 4-6 hours (max 4 inh/day)	\$160-\$315	Non benefit
terbutaline	Bricanyl Turbuhaler (500 mcg)	1-2 inh PRN (max 6 inh/day)	\$70-\$215	Regular benefit
SAMA short-acting muscarinic antagonist				
ipratropium	Atrovent HFA MDI, generic (20 mcg)	2-4 inh TID-QID (max 12 inh/day)	\$45-\$265	Regular benefit
SAMA + SABA short-acting muscarinic antagonist + short-acting beta₂ agonist				
ipratropium + salbutamol	Combivent Respimat (20/100 mcg)	1 inh QID (max 6 inh/day)	\$200-\$600	Regular benefit
LAMA long-acting muscarinic antagonist				
tiotropium	Spiriva Respimat (2.5 mcg)	2 inh once a day	\$715	Regular benefit
	Spiriva HandiHaler, LupinHaler generic, Apo-tiotropium generic (18 mcg)	1 inh once a day	\$360	
umeclidinium	Incruse Ellipta (62.5 mcg)	1 inh once a day	\$660	
glycopyrronium	Seebri Breezhaler (50 mcg)	1 inh once a day	\$700	Limited Coverage
aclidinium	Tudorza Genuair (400 mcg)	1 inh BID	\$700	after 1-month trial of each regular benefit LAMA
LABA long-acting beta₂ agonist				
salmeterol	Serevent Diskus (50 mcg)	1 inh BID	\$990	Limited Coverage unable to use a LAMA
LAMA + LABA long-acting muscarinic antagonist + long-acting beta₂ agonist				
tiotropium + olodaterol	Inspiolto Respimat (2.5/2.5 mcg)	2 inh once a day	\$845	Limited Coverage after 6-month trial of a LAMA or a LABA
umeclidinium + vilanterol	Anoro Ellipta (62.5/25 mcg)	1 inh once a day	\$1165	
glycopyrronium + indacaterol	Ultibro Breezhaler (50/110 mcg)	1 inh once a day	\$1020	
aclidinium + formoterol	Duaklir Genuair (400/12 mcg)	1 inh BID	\$825	
ICS + LABA inhaled corticosteroid + long-acting beta₂ agonist				
fluticasone furoate + vilanterol	Breo Ellipta (100/25 mcg)	1 inh once a day	\$1370	Limited Coverage after a 6-month trial of a LAMA or a LABA plus ≥ 2 moderate or ≥ 1 severe exacerbation in past 12 months
fluticasone propionate + salmeterol	Advair Diskus, generics DPI, Wixela Inhub (250/50 mcg)	1 inh BID	\$670 generic \$1530 brand	
	Advair Diskus, generics DPI, Wixela Inhub (500/50 mcg)	1 inh BID	\$950 generic \$2180 brand	
budesonide + formoterol	Symbicort Turbuhaler (200/6 mcg)	2 inh BID	\$1275	
ICS + LAMA + LABA inhaled corticosteroid + long-acting muscarinic antagonist + long-acting beta₂ agonist				
fluticasone furoate + umeclidinium + vilanterol	Trelegy Ellipta (100/62.5/25 mcg)	1 inh once a day	\$1810	Limited Coverage after a 6-month trial of LAMA+LABA or ICS+LABA plus ≥ 2 moderate or ≥ 1 severe exacerbation in past 12 months
budesonide + glycopyrronium + formoterol	Breztri Aerosphere (160/7.2/5 mcg)	2 inh BID	\$1670	

HFA hydrofluoroalkane; MDI metered dose inhaler; DPI dry powder inhaler; mcg micrograms; inh inhalation; BID twice a day; TID three times a day; QID four times a day; PRN when necessary; Cost without mark-up and professional fee calculated from McKesson Canada and rounded to the nearest \$5 (accessed February 4, 2025); for short-acting medications, annual cost is based on a minimum of 2 doses per day up to the maximum daily dose (average salbutamol PRN dose utilization in EMAX 2019, IMPACT 2018, ETHOS 2020 was 2-5 doses per day)

References: Health Canada Drug Product Monographs, McKesson Canada, BC PharmaCare Formulary

February 4, 2025