

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - ALZHEIMER'S DRUG THERAPY INITIATIVE (ADTI)

What is the purpose of the initiative?

The ADTI covers cholinesterase inhibitors for individuals diagnosed in the mild to moderate stages of Alzheimer's disease and is designed to gather previously unavailable clinical evidence on the effectiveness of these medications.

If I'm already taking a cholinesterase inhibitor, can I apply for coverage under the ADTI?

Yes. If you are already taking a cholinesterase inhibitor, you can participate in the Alzheimer's Drug Therapy Initiative if you meet the following criteria:

- You have PharmaCare coverage (i.e., are registered for Fair PharmaCare or covered under PharmaCare Plan B—Residential Care, or Plan C—Income Assistance recipients); and
- your physician submits a PharmaCare ADTI Special Authority request indicating you are in the mild to moderate stages of Alzheimer's disease.

Please note that PharmaCare coverage cannot be granted retroactively.

Who should I talk to if I am interested in participating?

You can discuss your eligibility with your physician.

What if I don't have PharmaCare coverage? Can I apply for it?

Yes. If you do not already have PharmaCare coverage, we encourage you to register for Fair PharmaCare. Your pharmacy may be able to provide you with a brochure explaining Fair PharmaCare. Information is also available on PharmaCare's website at www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharme or by calling Health Insurance BC: From Vancouver, call 604-683-7151; from the rest of B.C., call toll-free 1-800-663-7100.

Why isn't PharmaCare providing coverage for my Alzheimer's prescription any more?

Initial coverage under the Alzheimer's Drug Therapy Initiative is for six months from the date of approval. To continue coverage, a patient must be reassessed by their physician at least two to four weeks before the end of their initial coverage period to allow time for renewed Special Authority approval to be put in place.

To be eligible for coverage, Special Authority approval must be in place at the time your prescription is purchased. No retroactive coverage can be provided.

How can I tell when my PharmaCare coverage will expire?

Your pharmacist may be able to determine when your Special Authority coverage expires. If not, this information is available from your doctor's office or through Health Insurance BC at 1-800-663-7100.

How can I find out more about participating in the follow-up research studies?

Please call **1 866 511-2594 (ALZH)** for information on the follow-up studies being coordinated through the University of Victoria's Centre on Aging.

Where can I find out more information about Alzheimer's disease and what support is available?

The Alzheimer Society of B.C. provides support for individuals affected by Alzheimer's disease and their families. Please contact them at 1 800 936-6033 or visit their website at www.alzheimerbc.org to find the office nearest you.