



Add Your Voice to the Review on ADHD Medications Through PharmaCare

PURPOSE

BC PharmaCare has given advance notification that the Ministry of Health will soon be conducting a Therapeutic Review into the coverage of medications used in the treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Patients, caregivers and patient groups will have the opportunity to provide input as part of the process. You will be asked to give your perspective on how ADHD affects your life and the impact and benefits of the ADHD medication that you are currently taking, or have taken. The Ministry will be notifying interested parties when the review is open, but the tentative dates are currently May 4, 2016 to June 1, 2016 AT MIDNIGHT.

PARTICIPATION

Once the review is open, interested parties can provide their input by visiting the Ministry of Health website <http://www.gov.bc.ca/bcyourvoice> and following the directions. You can also sign up to be notified when public input is being accepted for a drug by signing up for the Your Voice email subscription service.

Patient, caregiver and patient group eligibility requirements can be found at:

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/health-drug-coverage/pharmacare-for-bc-residents/what-we-cover/drug-coverage/drug-review-process-results/your-voice/caregiver-and-patient-group-eligibility-requirements>

BACKGROUND

In the past, ADHD was misunderstood as a “minor nuisance disorder” that resolved itself at the end of childhood. We now know this disorder to be complex and life-long in most cases. When left untreated, ADHD has far reaching impacts, including increased incidences of school failure and drop out, substance abuse, at fault car accidents, injuries and increased exposure to the criminal justice system and mortality rates.

While treatment for ADHD should always be multimodal, including parental education and school accommodations, medication can be an important component for both children and adults living with ADHD. Medication is not a “one size fits all” scenario. Individuals with ADHD have unique responses to different medications. One therapy may be ineffective for one patient while being extremely effective for another. There are also both short and long-acting drug therapies available. While short-acting agents tend to be more cost effective, compliance is greatly reduced especially in patients with ADHD where severe memory loss is often experienced. It is therefore vital that physicians are able to individualize treatment, and have access to as many treatment options as possible. Publicly funded access to all Health Canada approved long-acting medications is a crucial part of an effective treatment plan, especially for those who are not able to afford to pay for medication on their own or do not have private drug plan coverage.

Unfortunately, in B.C., Ritalin and Dexedrine – both short-acting medications – are the only fully covered treatment options. Concerta, a long-acting medication, is available but it is restricted to Special Authority requests.

That is why this Therapeutic Review is so important for patients, their caregivers and their loved ones.

We know that increased costs and finite resources mean the Ministry of Health has to make tough decisions regarding priorities. Other jurisdictions across Canada have made the decision to make the treatment of ADHD a priority, and it is past-time British Columbia did the same.