

Brimonidine/Timolol

Product:

BRIMONIDINE/TIMOLOL (Combigan®)
0.2%/0.5% ophthalmic solution,
10mL (new package size)

Class of drugs:

alpha-adrenergic agonists/
beta-adrenergic agonists

Indication:

For the treatment of open-angle
glaucoma or ocular hypertension

Manufacturer:

Allergan Inc.

CED Recommendation

The CED recommended that brimonidine/timolol (Combigan), in the new 10mL bottle, be granted the same listing status as the existing 5mL package size (i.e., as a Limited Use benefit on the Ontario Drug Benefit Formulary). The CED's recommendation was made on the basis that the 10mL package size is equivalent in drug composition and in per unit cost to the existing 5mL size.

Executive Officer Decision

Based on the CED's recommendation, the Executive Officer decided to list brimonidine/timolol (Combigan) 10mL package on the Ontario Drug Benefit Formulary as a Limited Use benefit.

Status

Funding available through the Ontario Public Drug Programs.

Highlights of Recommendation:

- ◆ Brimonidine/timolol (Combigan) is an eye drop that combines two drugs commonly used in the treatment of glaucoma.
- ◆ The 5mL format of this product is already listed on the Formulary as a Limited Use benefit. The 10mL format is a new package size.
- ◆ Brimonidine/timolol (Combigan) 10mL package is identical in formulation to the existing 5mL package; the only difference is the volume of the bottle.
- ◆ The per unit price is the same between the two package sizes.
- ◆ The Committee noted that it is unlikely the availability of the 10mL format will change the usage pattern of this drug; therefore, the public drug program is not at risk of incurring additional costs.
- ◆ **Overall, the Committee noted that the 10mL bottle size of brimonidine/timolol (Combigan) is equivalent in drug composition to the existing 5mL format and should be cost-neutral to the program.**

Background:

Combigan is an eye drop combining two drug ingredients, brimonidine and timolol, used to reduce elevated eye pressure, for conditions such as glaucoma.

Glaucoma is a group of eye disorders in which the optic nerve carrying signals from the eye to the brain is damaged. Glaucoma is typically associated with high fluid pressures in the eye, caused by too much fluid being produced and/or inappropriate draining of fluids away from the eye. The buildup of pressure leads to damage to the optic nerve and can result in vision loss and blindness.

Brimonidine/timolol (Combigan) lowers the eye pressure by reducing the amount of fluid produced by the eye and increasing the flow of fluid out of the eye. It is currently listed on the Ontario Drug Benefit Formulary as a Limited Use benefit according to the following criteria:

As second-line therapy for patients who do not have an adequate intraocular pressure lowering response to monotherapy with ophthalmic beta-blocking agents.

OR

For use as initial therapy in an urgent situation (e.g., patients with a high baseline intraocular pressure) where monotherapy is unlikely to be effective.

Detailed Discussion:

- ◆ No additional details. The full CED discussion is as outlined in the *Highlights of Recommendation* section.

CEDAC Recommendation:

(<http://www.cadth.ca/index.php/en/cdr/recommendations>)

The Canadian Expert Drug Advisory Committee (CEDAC) did not review brimonidine/timolol (Combigan) 10mL package size.