

Table 1. Statins

Drug	Some Formulations	Usual Adult Dosage ¹	Average LDL-C Reduction ²	US Cost ³	CAN Cost ¹⁸
Atorvastatin – generic <i>Lipitor</i> (Upjohn; Pfizer in US)	10, 20, 40, 80 mg tabs	Initial: 10-20 mg once/day Maximum: 80 mg once/day ^{4,19}	35-40% 50-60%	\$6.40 314.40	\$5.20 58.00
Fluvastatin – generic <i>Lescol</i> (Novartis)	20, 40 mg caps Maximum: 40 mg bid ⁵	Initial: 40 mg bid ⁵ 30-35%	30-35%	240.00 306.00	18.60 N.A.C.
extended-release – generic <i>Lescol XL</i>	80 mg ER tabs	Initial: 80 mg once/day ⁵ Maximum: 80 mg once/day ⁵	35-40% 35-40%	202.20 323.00	N.A.C. 51.40
Lovastatin – generic	10, 20, 40 mg tabs ²⁰	Initial: 20 mg once/day Maximum: 80 mg once/day ^{6,7}	25-30% 35-40%	5.90	14.80
extended-release – <i>Altoprev</i> (Covis)	20, 40, 60 mg ER tabs	Initial: 20 mg once/day Maximum: 60 mg once/day ⁷	20-25% 40-45%	985.60	N.A.C.
Pitavastatin calcium ⁸ – <i>Livalo</i> (Kowa)	1, 2, 4 mg tabs	Initial: 2 mg once/day ⁹ Maximum: 4 mg once/day ⁹	35-40% 40-45%	295.60	N.A.C.
Pitavastatin magnesium ⁸ – <i>Zypitamag</i> (Medicure)	1, 2, 4 mg tabs	Initial: 2 mg once/day ⁹ Maximum: 4 mg once/day ⁹	35-40% 40-45%	232.50	N.A.C.
Pravastatin – generic <i>Pravachol</i> (BMS)	10, 20, 40, 80 mg tabs ²¹ 20, 40, 80 mg tabs	Initial: 40 mg once/day ^{10,11} Maximum: 80 mg once/day ¹¹	30-35% 35-40%	14.60 169.70	12.40 32.20
Rosuvastatin – generic <i>Crestor</i> (AstraZeneca)	5, 10, 20, 40 mg tabs	Initial: 10-20 mg once/day ^{12,13} Maximum: 40 mg once/day ^{13,14}	45-50% 50-60%	6.30 260.90	4.00 44.40
<i>Ezallor Sprinkle</i> (Sun Pharma)	5, 10, 20, 40 mg caps			85.50	N.A.C.
Simvastatin – generic <i>Zocor</i> (Merck)	5, 10, 20, 40, 80 mg tabs 10, 20, 40, 80 mg tabs	Initial: 10-20 mg once/day ¹⁵ Maximum: 40 mg once/day ^{16,17}	35-40% 45-50%	2.90 138.60	6.10 85.00
<i>Flolipid</i> (Salerno)	20 mg/5 mL, 40 mg/5 mL susp			121.60	N.A.C.

ER = extended-release; susp = suspension; N.A.C. = Not available in Canada

- Health Canada- and FDA-approved dosage. Some expert clinicians use lower doses for initial treatment of patients with only modest elevations of LDL-C or a history of poor tolerance to these drugs. For patients who require a large reduction in LDL-C, some would use higher doses initially. Statins are generally most effective when taken in the evening. Dosage adjustments may be needed for patients with renal or hepatic impairment.
- The listed ranges correspond to the initial and maximum dosages. Statin regimens that lower LDL-C $\geq 50\%$ are considered high-intensity therapy. Those that lower LDL-C 30-49% are considered moderate-intensity therapy, and those that lower LDL-C $< 30\%$ are considered low-intensity therapy. LDL-C reductions may vary significantly among individuals.
- Approximate WAC for 30 days' treatment with the lowest usual initial adult dosage. WAC = wholesaler acquisition cost or manufacturer's published price to wholesalers; WAC represents a published catalogue or list price and may not represent an actual transactional price. Source: AnalySource® Monthly. September 5, 2019. Reprinted with permission by First Databank, Inc. All rights reserved. ©2019. www.fdbhealth.com/policies/drug-pricing-policy.
- The maximum dose of atorvastatin is 20 mg if taken with clarithromycin, itraconazole, saquinavir/ritonavir, darunavir/ritonavir, fosamprenavir, fosamprenavir/ritonavir, elbasvir/grazoprevir, boceprevir, or letermovir and 40 mg if taken with nelfinavir. In Canada, atorvastatin is contraindicated for use with tipranavir/ritonavir, telaprevir, glecaprevir/pibrentasvir, and cyclosporine, and should be used at the lowest dose possible with lopinavir/ritonavir and colchicine.
- In the US, the maximum dose of fluvastatin is 20 mg if taken with cyclosporine or fluconazole. In Canada, it is recommended that fluvastatin be used cautiously with cyclosporine or fluconazole (no maximum dosage reduction recommendation).
- Or 40 mg bid.
- Use doses > 20 mg/day cautiously in patients with severe renal impairment. The maximum dose of lovastatin is 20 mg if taken with danazol, diltiazem, dronedarone, or verapamil and 40 mg if taken with amiodarone.
- The FDA considers *Livalo* and *Zypitamag* (neither is approved in Canada) to be bioequivalent.
- In patients with moderate or severe renal impairment and those on hemodialysis, 1 mg/day initially, 2 mg/day maximum. The maximum dose of pitavastatin is 1 mg if taken with erythromycin and 2 mg if taken with rifampin.
- Patients with severe renal impairment should start with 10 mg/day.
- The maximum dose of pravastatin is 20 mg if taken with cyclosporine. In the US, the maximum dose of pravastatin is 40 mg if taken with clarithromycin; there is no maximum dose recommendation with concurrent use of clarithromycin in Canada, but caution is advised.
- Higher serum concentrations of rosuvastatin have been reported in Asian patients; an initial dose of 5 mg once daily is recommended. In patients with homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia (HOFH), the initial dosage is 20 mg once/day.
- Patients with severe renal impairment not on hemodialysis should start with 5 mg and not exceed 10 mg/day. The maximum dose of rosuvastatin is 5 mg if taken with cyclosporine and 10 mg if taken with atazanavir/ritonavir, lopinavir/ritonavir, or simeprevir (not available in Canada).
- Maximum dose is 20 mg/day in Asian patients.
- Patients with severe renal impairment should start with 5 mg.
- Patients who have taken 80 mg/day of simvastatin for ≥ 12 months without evidence of myopathy can continue at this dose.
- The maximum dose of simvastatin is 10 mg if taken with diltiazem, dronedarone, or verapamil and 20 mg if taken with amiodarone, amlodipine, or ranolazine (not approved in Canada). In Canada, simvastatin use is also contraindicated with itraconazole, ketoconazole, posaconazole, voriconazole, HIV protease inhibitors, erythromycin, clarithromycin, boceprevir, telaprevir, nefazodone, cobicistat, cyclosporine, gemfibrozil, and danazol.
- Approximate WAC for 30 days' treatment at the lowest usual adult dosage, based on prices in Canadian dollars from a national wholesaler (prices in Ontario, September 2019).
- In Canada, it is recommended that atorvastatin be used cautiously in patients with CrCl < 30 mL/min at a dose of 10 mg/day.
- In Canada, 10-mg tablets not available.
- In Canada, 80-mg tablets not available.