

# NEW DRUG CAN CHANGE THE LIVES OF PEOPLE WITH CYSTIC FIBROSIS

## WHAT IS CYSTIC FIBROSIS?

Cystic fibrosis (CF) is the most common fatal genetic disease **affecting approximately 4,200 people in Canada**. It is a multi-system disease that **affects mainly the lungs and the digestive system**. In the lungs, where the effects are most devastating, a build-up of thick mucus causes severe respiratory problems. Mucus and other factors make it difficult to digest and absorb nutrients from food. **There is no cure.**

## WHAT IS ORKAMBI™?

**ORKAMBI™ is a new drug that addresses the underlying defect in CF.** It improves lung function and reduces acute flare-ups of lung symptoms that cause frequent hospitalizations and accelerated lung disease. As of December 31, 2017, ORKAMBI™ has the potential to lead to **healthier, longer lives** for approximately 2100 Canadians with CF.

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## HELPING PEOPLE WITH CF GET THE MEDICINE THEY NEED

**Canadians with CF that could benefit from this life-changing drug should have access to it.**

Cystic Fibrosis Canada is calling on all provincial and territorial drug plans as well as private insurance companies to fund ORKAMBI™ for CF patients whose specialized CF doctor has prescribed the medication.

Cystic Fibrosis Canada is also calling on the drug manufacturer and the provincial governments to negotiate a fair price for ORKAMBI™ in a timely manner so that the people who need ORKAMBI™ can access it now.

## GET INVOLVED!

-  **Send letters to your Minister of Health and provincial and territorial representatives.** Tell them why you believe Canadians with CF who may benefit from ORKAMBI™ should have access to it.
-  **Arrange an in-person meeting with your provincial representative.** Tell them why you think access to life-changing drugs, including ORKAMBI™, must be a priority of the public drug plan.
-  **Follow @CFCanada** and join the conversation. Share our content with your community - and politicians!
-  **Join Cystic Fibrosis Canada's Facebook community** [facebook.com/CysticFibrosisCanada](https://facebook.com/CysticFibrosisCanada)
-  **Watch Cystic Fibrosis Canada on YouTube** [youtube.com/CysticFibrosisCanada](https://youtube.com/CysticFibrosisCanada)
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