

Drug Coverage Decision for B.C. PharmaCare

About PharmaCare

B.C. PharmaCare is a government-funded drug plan. It helps British Columbians with the cost of eligible prescription drugs and specific medical supplies.

Details of Drug Reviewed

Drug	aripiprazole
Brand Name	Abilify®
Dosage Form(s)	2 mg, 5 mg, 10 mg, 15 mg, 20 mg and 30 mg tablets
Manufacturer	Bristol-Myers Squibb Canada Inc.
Submission Review	New Submission
Use Reviewed	aripiprazole is used as adjunctive therapy for major depressive disorder (MDD) in patients who had an inadequate response to prior antidepressant treatments.
Common Drug Review (CDR)	CDR recommended: Do not list . Visit the CDR website for more details: www.cadth.ca/media/cdr/complete/cdr_complete_SR0354_Abilify-MDD_Oct-24_2014.pdf
Drug Benefit Council (DBC)	The drug was not reviewed by the DBC.
Drug Coverage Decision	Non-Benefit
Date	April 14, 2015
Reason(s)	<p>Aripiprazole was not reviewed by the DBC because it received a “Do not List” recommendation from the CDR. The Ministry of Health reviewed clinical evidence and pharmacoeconomic reports prepared by the CDR, the Final Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC) Recommendation and Reasons, Clinical Practice Reviews from two specialists and patient input collected through Your Voice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on the available evidence, clinical benefit of aripiprazole is uncertain, given the lack of evidence consistently demonstrating clinically relevant improvement in the study outcomes and quality of life of patients living with MDD. Long-term safety and efficacy of aripiprazole as adjunct treatment in MDD is uncertain as studies were 6 weeks in duration. Aripiprazole is the only drug indicated for use as adjunctive treatment for MDD in Canada; however, other less costly atypical antipsychotics are also used adjunctively for MDD in Canadian clinical practice.
Other Information	None

The Drug Review Process in B.C.

A manufacturer submits a request to the Ministry of Health (Ministry).

An independent group called the [Drug Benefit Council](#) (DBC) gives advice to the Ministry. The DBC looks at:

- advice from a national group called the Common Drug Review
- whether the drug is safe and effective
- whether it is a good value for the people of B.C.
- the ethics of covering or not covering the drug
- input from physicians, patients, caregivers, patient groups and drug submission sponsors

The Ministry makes a decision based on many factors, including:

- advice from the DBC
- drugs used to treat similar medical conditions that B.C. PharmaCare already covers
- the overall cost of covering the drug

Visit the B.C. [Drug Review Process](#) and [PharmaCare](#) program for more information.

This document is intended for information only.

It does not take the place of advice from a physician or other qualified health care provider.