

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	adalimumab
Brand Name	Humira®
Dosage Form	40 mg/0.8 mL solution for subcutaneous injection
Manufacturer	AbbVie Corporation
Submission Type	Resubmission
Use Reviewed	Ulcerative colitis
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes, CDR recommended: Do Not Reimburse at the submitted price. Visit the CDR website for more details: www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/cdr/complete/SR0450_complete_Humira-Apr-19-16_e.pdf
Provincial Review	The Drug Benefit Council (DBC) now screens drug submissions under review by the Common Drug Review (CDR) to determine whether or not a full DBC review is necessary, based on past DBC reviews, recommendations, and existing PharmaCare coverage. If a full DBC review is determined to not be required, PharmaCare's drug coverage decision will be based on the Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC) recommendation and an internal review only. The DBC screened adalimumab for ulcerative colitis on November 2, 2015. The DBC advised that because adalimumab is similar to some of the other biologic drugs used for the treatment of ulcerative colitis, PharmaCare may accept the CDEC's recommendation for adalimumab.
Drug Coverage Decision	Limited Coverage Benefit. Access the adalimumab criteria from www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarespecialauthority
Date	June 20, 2017
Reasons	<p>Drug coverage decision is consistent with the CDEC recommendation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The drug demonstrated some advantage over placebo with respect to efficacy, as measured by the induction of remission in patients with ulcerative colitis. • The CDEC concluded that the benefits and risks of the drug compared to other biologic drugs for the treatment of ulcerative colitis are uncertain. • The Ministry participated in the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance negotiations with the manufacturer which were able to address the concerns identified by the CDEC with respect to the cost-effectiveness and value for money.
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:

- whether the drug is safe and effective
- advice from a national group called the [Common Drug Review \(CDR\)](#)
- what the drug costs and whether it is a good value for the people of B.C.
- ethical considerations involved with covering or not covering the drug
- input from physicians, patients, caregivers, patient groups and drug submission sponsors

The Ministry makes PharmaCare coverage decisions by taking into account:

- the existing PharmaCare policies, programs and resources
- the evidence-informed advice of the DBC
- the drugs already covered by PharmaCare that are used to treat similar medical conditions
- the overall cost of covering the drug

Visit the [The Drug Review Process in B.C. - Overview](#) and [Ministry of Health - PharmaCare](#) 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.