

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 monohydrate
Brand Name	Abilify Maintena™
Dosage Form(s)	300 mg and 400 mg long-acting injection
Manufacturer	Otsuka Canada Pharmaceutical Inc. and Lundbeck Canada Inc.
Submission Review	New Submission
Use Reviewed	Schizophrenia
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes, CDR recommended: List with criteria and condition. Visit the CDR website for more details: www.cadth.ca/node/88649 .
Drug Benefit Council (DBC)	DBC met on January 12, 2015. DBC considered various inputs including: the final review completed by the CDR on December 19, 2014, which included clinical and pharmacoeconomic evidence review material and the CDEC recommendation. The DBC also considered clinical practice reviews from two specialists, as well as a budget impact assessment. No Patient Input Questionnaire responses were received through Your Voice.
Drug Coverage Decision	Limited Coverage Benefit. Access the aripiprazole monohydrate criteria from www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarespecialauthority.
Date	August 11, 2015
Reason(s)	Drug coverage decision is consistent with the DBC recommendation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In patients stabilized on oral aripiprazole, Abilify Maintena™ was similar to oral aripiprazole with respect to efficacy and safety. • At the manufacturer's submitted product price, Abilify Maintena™ costs substantially more than oral aripiprazole but comparable to other atypical antipsychotic long-acting injections, risperidone microsphere (Risperdal® Consta®) and paliperidone palmitate (Invega Sustenna®).
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.