

B.C. Ministry of Health Services Drug Coverage Decision

About PharmaCare

B.C. PharmaCare helps British Columbians with the cost of eligible prescription drugs and specific medical supplies.

PharmaCare Coverage

The Ministry of Health Services (Ministry) makes PharmaCare coverage decisions by considering existing PharmaCare policies, programs and resources and the evidence-based recommendations of an independent advisory body called the Drug Benefit Council (DBC). The DBC's advice to the Ministry is based upon a review of many considerations, including available clinical and pharmacoeconomic evidence, clinical practice and ethical considerations, and the recommendations of the national Common Drug Review, when applicable.

Inside

Page 1 includes the Ministry's decision and reasons in wording that is easier for readers without a medical background to understand. **Page 2** summarizes the DBC recommendation, the Ministry's decision and the reasons for the Ministry's decision.

Ezetimibe (Ezetrol®) for high cholesterol in patients with forms of Neimann-Pick C1 Like1 (NPC1L1) protein with increased cholesterol absorption

Understanding the DBC Recommendation and PharmaCare Coverage Decision

Background

- **Cholesterol** is a type of fat that comes from the diet but is also made in the body. High cholesterol can build up in the blood vessels and make them narrow. This can lead to a heart attack or stroke.
- Cholesterol is found in the body as low-density lipoproteins (LDL), high-density lipoproteins (HDL) and triglycerides (TG). LDL and TG are called "bad cholesterol." HDL is called "good cholesterol" because it helps protect against heart disease.
- **Neimann-Pick C1 Like1 (NPC1L1) protein** is found in the intestine and helps with the uptake of cholesterol. People have different forms of NPC1L1 protein. Some forms cause people to take in more cholesterol from their diet and other forms cause people to take in less cholesterol from their diet.
- **Ezetimibe** has the brand name **Ezetrol®**.
 - o Ezetimibe belongs to the class of drugs called cholesterol absorption inhibitors.
 - o Ezetimibe works on the NPC1L1 protein to reduce the amount of cholesterol absorbed from food.
 - o Ezetimibe decreases bad cholesterol.

Why was this drug reviewed?

- A request was made to consider coverage for patients with forms of Neimann-Pick C1 Like1 (NPC1L1) protein with increased cholesterol absorption.

What did the review find?

- No tests can show who has the form of NPC1L1 protein that causes them to take in more cholesterol from their diet.
- No good studies have been completed to determine the importance of testing patients for their type of NPC1L1 protein.

What decision was made?

- Ezetimibe will not be covered for high cholesterol in patients with some forms of Neimann-Pick C1 Like 1 (NPC1L1) protein.

Key Term(s)

- No key term(s)

This document is intended for information only. It does not take the place of advice from a physician or other qualified health care provider.

Please visit us online to find out more about the Pharmaceutical Services Division and the PharmaCare program at www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare. To find out more about how drugs are considered for PharmaCare coverage, visit www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/formulary.



Ezetimibe (Ezetrol®) for high cholesterol in patients with specific variants of Neimann-Pick C1 Like1 (NPC1L1) protein

Drug Class

- Cholesterol absorption inhibitor

Available Dosage Forms

- 10 mg tablets

Sponsor/Requestor

- Pharmaceutical Services Division

Submission (Request) to PharmaCare

- Review of ezetimibe monotherapy for patients with specific variants of the Neimann-Pick C1 Like1 protein to reduce serum cholesterol.

Drug Benefit Council (DBC)

Recommendations

- Ezetimibe not be listed.

Reasons for the Ministry of Health Services Decision

- Testing for protein variants on a population basis is not available and the clinical importance of this finding has not been evaluated in appropriately-designed clinical trials.

Decision and Status

- Not a benefit for patients with high cholesterol in specific variants of Neimann-Pick C1 Like 1 protein.
- Effective September 10, 2008

Key Term(s)

- No key term(s)