

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	palonosetron
Brand Name	Aloxi®
Dosage Form	0.5 mg capsule
Manufacturer	Eisai Limited
Submission Review	New Submission
Use Reviewed	To prevent nausea and vomiting caused by cancer chemotherapy.
Common Drug Review (CDR)	CDR recommended that Aloxi® capsule not be listed: http://www.cadth.ca/media/cdr/complete/cdr_complete_Aloxi%20PO_April-25-13.pdf
Drug Benefit Council (DBC)	DBC met on July 15, 2013. DBC considered various inputs including: the final review completed by the CDR, which included clinical and pharmacoeconomic evidence review material, input from a specialist, budget impact analysis, manufacturer comments and responses to patient input questionnaires from one caregiver and one patient group.
Drug Coverage Decision	Non-benefit
Date	October 31, 2013
Reason(s)	<p>Drug coverage decision is consistent with the DBC recommendation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The drug did not demonstrate advantages over ondansetron (Zofran®) or granisetron (Kytril®) with respect to efficacy, safety and/or quality of life. Based on economic considerations and the submitted product price, the drug was not cost effective and/or did not offer optimal value for money.
Other Information	

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](#) gives advice to the Ministry. The Council 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. and the drugs cost
- 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 Council
- drugs used to treat similar medical conditions that B.C. PharmaCare already covers
- the overall cost of covering the drug

For more information about the B.C. Drug Review Process, please visit
<http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/outgoing/drugrevproc2.pdf>.

To find out more about the Pharmaceutical Services Division and the PharmaCare program, visit
www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare.

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