

# 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

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>Drug</b>                   | <b>eculizumab</b>   |
| Brand Name                    | Soliris®  |
| Dosage Form(s)                | 300 mg/vial   |
| Manufacturer                  | Alexion Pharmaceuticals Inc.  |
| <b>Submission Review</b>      | <b>New Submission</b>   |
| Use Reviewed                  | Eculizumab was reviewed for the treatment of atypical hemolytic uremic syndrome (aHUS)  |
| Common Drug Review (CDR)      | Yes, CDR recommended Do not list Visit CDR website for more details:<br><a href="http://www.cadth.ca/media/cdr/complete/cdr_complete_Soliris-aHUS_July-23-13.pdf">http://www.cadth.ca/media/cdr/complete/cdr_complete_Soliris-aHUS_July-23-13.pdf</a>   |
| Drug Benefit Council (DBC)    | DBC met on October 21, 2013. DBC considered various inputs including: clinical and pharmacoeconomic evidence review material and the recommendation from the Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC); a Clinical Practice Review from two Specialists; Manufacturer comments; responses to Patient Input Questionnaires from 1 patient, 1 caregiver, and 1 patient group; and a Budget Impact Analysis.   |
| <b>Drug Coverage Decision</b> | <b>Non-Benefit</b>  |
| Date                          | January 14, 2014  |
| Reason(s)                     | <p><b>Drug coverage decision is consistent with the DBC recommendation.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The clinical efficacy review did not identify any randomized controlled trials to be included in the review.</li> <li>• The clinical efficacy review included three uncontrolled trials. These studies had several important limitations including: no control group (eculizumab was not compared to anything), short duration of trials and no data on clinically important outcomes.</li> <li>• As a result of these limitations, it is unclear what advantages and disadvantages eculizumab has compared to other standard means of treating aHUS.</li> <li>• With unclear comparative clinical advantages and very high per-patient costs (about \$730,000 in the first year and \$700,000 in subsequent years), eculizumab is likely not cost-effective and would result in a significant budget impact.</li> </ul> |
| 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](#) 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 Medical Beneficiary and Pharmaceutical Services Division and the PharmaCare program, visit [www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare).

**This document is intended for information only.**

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