

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	abatacept
Brand Name	Orencia®
Dosage Form(s)	125 mg pre-filled syringe for subcutaneous injection
Manufacturer	Bristol-Myers Squibb Canada
Submission Review	New Submission
Use Reviewed	Rheumatoid arthritis in adults
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes. CDR recommended to List with criteria. Visit CDR website for more details: http://www.cadth.ca/media/cdr/complete/cdr_complete_Orencia-RA_July-22-13_e.pdf
Drug Benefit Council (DBC)	DBC met on October 21, 2013. DBC considered various inputs including the final review by the Common Drug Review (CDR), Canadian Drug Expert Committee recommendation, Clinical Practice Review from two specialists, responses to Patient input Questionnaires from 18 patients, 1 caregiver, 2 patient groups; and a Budget Impact Analysis.
Drug Coverage Decision	Limited Coverage benefit http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/sa/criteria/genericbrandtable.html#
Date	February 25, 2014
Reason(s)	Drug coverage decision is consistent with the DBC Recommendation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC abatacept was similar to IV abatacept, as measured by the proportion of patients achieving an American College of Rheumatology (ACR) 20 response. The review also demonstrated similar ACR 50 and ACR 70 response rates between SC abatacept and IV abatacept. • SC abatacept may represent a cost-saving for some patient groups. However, SC abatacept represents an increased cost relative to IV abatacept for patients weighing less than 60 kg. • IV abatacept may be inconvenient for some patients due to the need for monthly infusions. SC abatacept may offer patients the prospect of greater degree of self-management of their condition.
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 Pharmaceutical Services Division and the PharmaCare program, visit
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.