

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	interferon beta-1a
Brand Name	Rebif®
Dosage Form(s)	132 µg / 1.5 ml pre-filled cartridge and 44 µg / 0.5 ml pre-filled syringe
Manufacturer	EMD Serono Inc.
Submission Review	New indication
Use Reviewed	For clinically isolated syndrome (CIS)
Common Drug Review (CDR)	CDR recommended not to list interferon beta-1a for CIS http://www.cadth.ca/media/cdr/complete/cdr_complete_Rebif_Aug-19-13.pdf
Drug Benefit Council (DBC)	DBC met on November 18, 2013. DBC considered the following: the final review completed by CDR on August 15, 2013, which included clinical and pharmacoeconomic evidence review material and the recommendation from the CDEC; a Clinical Practice Reviews from a Specialist and a General Practitioner; responses to Patient Input Questionnaires from two patients; and a Budget Impact Analysis.
Drug Coverage Decision	Non-Benefit for CIS
Date	March 25, 2014
Reason(s)	Drug coverage decision is consistent with the DBC recommendation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on the available clinical evidence, the treatment of CIS with interferon beta-1a (Rebif) has not been shown to affect long-term disability progression; therefore, the clinical benefit is uncertain.
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 drug's 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.

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