

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	zolpidem
Brand Name	Sublinox™
Dosage Form(s)	5 mg and 10 mg orally disintegrating tablet (ODT)
Manufacturer	Meda Valeant Canada Inc.
Submission Review	New Submission
Use Reviewed	For the short-term treatment and symptomatic relief of insomnia
Common Drug Review (CDR)	CDR recommended Do Not List. http://www.cadth.ca/media/cdr/complete/cdr_complete_Sublinox_September_27_13.pdf
Drug Benefit Council (DBC)	DBC met on November 18, 2013. DBC considered various inputs including: general inputs (e.g. CDR, CER and PER), input from two general practitioners, and 4 patient-type inputs.
Drug Coverage Decision	Non-Benefit
Date	June 24, 2014
Reason(s)	Drug coverage decision is consistent with the DBC recommendation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The comparative clinical benefit of zolpidem ODT was considered uncertain due to lack of randomized controlled trials (RCTs) comparing zolpidem to other drug comparators or placebo. Zolpidem ODT is more expensive than other drugs used for the short-term treatment and symptomatic relief of insomnia.
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.

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