

# Drug Coverage Decision for B.C. PharmaCare

<b>About PharmaCare</b>	B.C. PharmaCare is a government-funded drug plan. It helps British Columbians with the cost of eligible prescription drugs and specific medical supplies.		
<b>Details of Drug Reviewed</b>			
<b>Drug</b>	<b>dipeptidyl peptidase-4 (DPP-4) inhibitors</b>		
	<b>linagliptin; linagliptin-metformin</b>	<b>saxagliptin; saxagliptin-metformin</b>	<b>sitagliptin; sitagliptin-metformin</b>
<b>Brand Name</b>	Trajenta®; Jentadueto™	Onglyza®; Komboglyze™	Januvia®, Janumet®, Janumet® XR
<b>Dosage Form(s)</b>	5 mg tablet,  2.5 mg/500 mg tablet, 2.5 mg/850 mg tablet, 2.5 mg/1000 mg tablet	2.5 mg tablet, 5 mg tablet,  2.5 mg/500 mg tablet, 2.5 mg/850 mg tablet, 2.5 mg/1000 mg tablet	25 mg tablet, 50 mg tablet, 100 mg tablet,  50 mg/500 mg tablet and XR tablet, 50 mg/850 mg tablet, 50 mg/1000 mg tablet and XR tablet 50 mg/1000 mg XR tablet
<b>Manufacturer</b>	Boeingerher Ingelheim Canada	AstraZeneca Canada Inc.	Merck Canada Inc.
<b>Submission Review</b>	<b>Therapeutic review for DPP-4 inhibitors</b>		
<b>Use Reviewed</b>	Type 2 diabetes mellitus		
<b>Common Drug Review (CDR)</b>	Yes—See the Optimal Use Report from the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technology in Health (CADTH), “Third-Line Pharmacotherapy for Type 2 Diabetes” at <a href="http://www.cadth.ca/en/products/optimal-use/second-line-therapies/reports">www.cadth.ca/en/products/optimal-use/second-line-therapies/reports</a> See the Common Drug Review of individual DPP-4 inhibitors at <a href="http://www.cadth.ca/en/products/cdr">www.cadth.ca/en/products/cdr</a>		
<b>Drug Benefit Council (DBC)</b>	Yes		
<b>Drug Coverage Decisions</b>	<b>linagliptin</b>	<b>linagliptin-metformin; saxagliptin; saxagliptin-metformin</b>	<b>sitagliptin; sitagliptin-metformin</b>
	<b>No change, continues to be Limited Coverage benefit.</b> <a href="http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/sa/criteria/restricted/linagliptin.html">www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/sa/criteria/restricted/linagliptin.html</a>	<b>Limited Coverage benefits</b> <a href="http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/sa/criteria/restricted/saxagliptin.html">www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/sa/criteria/restricted/saxagliptin.html</a>	<b>Non-Benefit</b>
<b>Reason</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The B.C. Ministry of Health, Medical Beneficiary and Pharmaceutical Services Division (MBPSD) is responsible for maintaining a contemporary PharmaCare formulary which is accountable, cost-effective and sustainable. To support this, the Ministry regularly reviews and updates the PharmaCare formulary.</li> <li>MBPSD initiated a comprehensive therapeutic review of the DPP-4 inhibitor drugs.</li> <li>For the DPP-4 inhibitors review, the DBC reviewed the CDRs final review of saxagliptin completed on November 15, 2013, which included clinical and pharmacoeconomic evidence review material and the recommendation from the Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC). The DBC also considered Optimal Use Report from the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technology in Health (CADTH), Third-Line Pharmacotherapy for Type 2 Diabetes—Update; the Examination of Cardiovascular Outcomes with Alogliptin versus Standard of Care (EXAMINE) study ; and the Saxagliptin Assessment of Vascular Outcomes Recorded in Patients with Diabetes Mellitus</li> </ul>		

Thrombolysis in Myocardial Infarction (SAVOR-TIMI) 53 study.

- The DBC concluded that DPP-4 inhibitors have similar clinical efficacy and harms, therefore the DBC recommended that the Ministry should provide coverage based on the best value for money.
- Based on this finding, MBPSD engaged manufacturers of sitagliptin, linagliptin and saxagliptin through a fair process to seek best value for money and to provide reasonable product choice.
- As a result, PharmaCare will no longer cover sitagliptin and sitagliptin-metformin but will cover four linagliptin, linagliptin-metformin, saxagliptin, and saxagliptin-metformin.

**Of Note:**

- PharmaCare provides one of the most generous diabetes coverage programs in Canada. PharmaCare spent over \$75 million on diabetes medications and supplies in 2012/13. The Ministry and PharmaCare provides British Columbians who have diabetes with coverage for:
  - insulin and other diabetes medications;
  - insulin pumps for individuals age 25 and under;
  - insulin pump supplies (infusion sets and reservoirs) for individuals of any age;
  - blood glucose test strips;
  - needles and syringes for insulin use; and
  - drug treatments for diabetic macular edema

### 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

[www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/outgoing/drugrevproc2.pdf](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/outgoing/drugrevproc2.pdf).

To find out more about the Medical Beneficiary & 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.