

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	Fentanyl buccal/sublingual
Brand Name	Fentora®
Dosage Forms	100 mcg, 200 mcg, 400 mcg, 600 mcg and 800 mcg buccal/sublingual effervescent tablets
Manufacturer	Teva Canada Innovation
Submission Type	New Submission
Use Reviewed	For the management of breakthrough pain in adult cancer patients with difficulty swallowing or inadequate pain relief/intolerance/contraindication to morphine, oxycodone or hydromorphone.
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes, CDR recommended: Do Not Reimburse . Visit the CDR website for more details: https://www.cadth.ca/about-cadth/what-we-do/products-services/cdr/reports
Provincial Review	DBC now screens drug submissions under review by the CDR to determine whether or not a full DBC review is necessary, based on past DBC reviews, recommendations, and existing PharmaCare coverage. If a full DBC review is determined to not be required, the Ministry's drug coverage decision will be based on the CDEC recommendation and an internal review only. The DBC screened Fentora® on October 3, 2016. The DBC advised that because fentanyl is similar to some of the other drugs used for the treatment of breakthrough pain, the Ministry may accept the CDEC's recommendation for Fentora.
Drug Coverage Decision	Non-Benefit
Date	May 16, 2017
Reasons	Drug coverage decision is consistent with the CDR recommendation. No patient input was received by PharmaCare nor the CDR for this drug. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no evidence to demonstrate efficacy and safety in patients with difficulty swallowing or patients with inadequate pain relief/intolerance/contraindication to morphine, oxycodone or hydromorphone. • There is no evidence to demonstrate that Fentora® would be beneficial in patients who are unable to achieve pain relief with currently available pain management therapies.
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 \(DBC\)](#) gives advice to the Ministry. The DBC looks at:

- whether the drug is safe and effective
- advice from a national group called the [Common Drug Review \(CDR\)](#)
- what the drug costs and whether it is a good value for the people of B.C.
- ethical considerations involved with covering or not covering the drug
- input from physicians, patients, caregivers, patient groups and drug submission sponsors

The Ministry makes PharmaCare coverage decisions by taking into account:

- the existing PharmaCare policies, programs and resources
- the evidence-informed advice of the DBC
- the drugs already covered by PharmaCare that are used to treat similar medical conditions
- the overall cost of covering the drug

Visit the [The Drug Review Process in B.C. - Overview](#) and [Ministry of Health - PharmaCare](#) for more information.

This document is intended for information only.

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