

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	perindopril arginine-amlodipine
Brand Name	Viacoram®
Dosage Form(s)	3.5 mg/2.5 mg, 7 mg/5 mg and 14 mg/10 mg oral tablets
Manufacturer	Servier Canada Inc.
Submission Type	New Submission
Use Reviewed	Essential hypertension
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes, CDR recommended to Reimburse with conditions . Visit the CDR website for more details: www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/cdr/complete/SR0490_complete_Viacoram-Oct-28-16.pdf
Provincial Review	The Drug Benefit Council (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 Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC) recommendation and an internal review only. The DBC screened Viacoram® on July 4, 2016. The DBC advised that because Viacoram® is similar to some of the other drugs used for the treatment of essential hypertension, the Ministry may accept the CDEC's recommendation for Viacoram®.
Drug Coverage Decision	Non-Benefit
Date	July 25, 2017
Reason(s)	<p>The Ministry of Health reviewed clinical evidence and pharmacoeconomic reports prepared by the CDR, CDEC Final Recommendation and Reasons, and patient input questionnaire from one patient collected through the Ministry's patient input mechanism, Your Voice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viacoram®, an angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor and calcium channel blocker (ACEI/CCB) fixed-dose combination (FDC) product, was similar to or demonstrated some advantage over perindopril and amlodipine individually and valsartan-amlodipine with respect to efficacy and safety. However, the clinical benefit of Viacoram® remains uncertain, given the lack of data assessing clinically meaningful outcomes, such as hypertension-related morbidity and mortality, quality of life or treatment compliance. Based on the submitted product price, Viacoram® is more costly than the angiotensin receptor blocker (ARB)/CCB FDC product, telmisartan-amlodipine (Twynsta™) or the free-dose ACEI/CCB combination of ramipril (generics) and amlodipine (generics). The pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA) and the manufacturer of Viacoram did not reach an agreement.
Other	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.