

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	insulin degludec and liraglutide
Brand Name	Xultophy®
Dosage Form(s)	100 units/mL and 3.6 mg/mL fixed-ratio combination solution for injection
Manufacturer	Novo Nordisk Canada Inc.
Submission Type	New Submission
Use Reviewed	Type 2 diabetes
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes, CDR recommended: to Reimburse with clinical criteria and/or conditions . Visit the CDR website for more details: https://www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/cdr/complete/SR0599%20Xultophy%20-%20CDEC%20Final%20Recommendation%20October%2028%2C%202019_redacted_For%20posting.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 Xultophy® on April 1, 2019. The DBC advised that because insulin degludec and liraglutide fixed-ratio combination solution is similar to some of the other drugs used for the treatment of Type 2 diabetes, the Ministry may accept the CDEC's recommendation for insulin degludec and liraglutide fixed-ratio combination solution.
Drug Coverage Decision	Non-Benefit
Date	March 13, 2020
Reason(s)	<p>Drug coverage decision is consistent with the CDEC recommendations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Xultophy® with metformin (MET) was similar to insulin glargine plus prandial insulin aspart or has demonstrated some advantage over insulin degludec or insulin glargine with respect to the improvement in glycated haemoglobin (A1c) levels. There were no differences between Xultophy® and the comparators with respect to safety and quality of life. The CDEC also noted that Xultophy® has a dose limitation of 50 units of insulin degludec, which makes it unsuitable for patients who require more than 50 units of insulin degludec daily. Administering the drugs separately likely allows for better dose titration for patients to meet therapeutic objectives. The Ministry recently transitioned patients from the original biologic (originator) insulin glargine (Lantus®) to the biosimilar insulin glargine (Basaglar™), as part of the Ministry's Biosimilar Initiative.

	<p>The Ministry does not currently provide coverage for insulin degludec (Tresiba®), which is more expensive than insulin glargine. Prior to starting Xultophy®, patients taking biosimilar insulin glargine (Basaglar™) would need to switch to insulin degludec, which is not a PharmaCare benefit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition, the Ministry does not provide coverage for liraglutide due to cost. • Based on economic considerations and the submitted product price, CDEC noted that the cost effectiveness for Xultophy® is uncertain, and Xultophy® did not offer value for money compared to other GLP-1 RA drugs when added to the least costly basal insulin. • The Ministry did not participate in the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance negotiation.
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 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.