

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	esketamine
Brand Name	Spravato®
Dosage Form(s)	28 mg esketamine in nasal solution
Manufacturer	Janssen Inc.
Submission Type	New Submission
Use Reviewed	Major depressive disorder (MDD) in adults
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Do Not Reimburse. Visit the Common Drug Review (CDR) website for more details: https://www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/cdr/complete/SR0621%20Spravato%20-%20CDEC%20Final%20Recommendation%20December%2018%2C%202020_for%20posting.pdf
Provincial Review	Esketamine was reviewed internally and was not reviewed by the Drug Benefit Council (DBC) because the CDR recommended not to list for MDD.
Drug Coverage Decision	Non-Benefit
Date	August 3, 2021
Reason(s)	<p>Drug coverage decision is consistent with the CDEC recommendation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Esketamine did not demonstrate a significant benefit in combination with a newly initiated oral antidepressant compared with placebo in combination with a newly initiated oral antidepressant. There is a clear unmet need for effective and safe treatments for patients with MDD who have not responded adequately to sequential optimized antidepressant trials. However, CDEC could not confirm that esketamine meets the unmet need. This is in part due to the uncertain meaningful benefit of esketamine in the studied populations overall, as well as the lack of data to identify people in whom esketamine is most likely to provide benefit.
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.