

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	brivaracetam
Brand Name	Brivlera®
Dosage Form(s)	10 mg, 25 mg, 50 mg, 75 mg, and 100 mg tablets
Manufacturer	UCB Canada Inc.
Submission Type	Ministry-Initiated
Use Reviewed	Partial-onset seizures in adult patients with epilepsy
Common Drug Review (CDR)	CDR reviewed brivaracetam in the past and recommended: to Reimburse with clinical criteria and/or conditions . Visit the CDR website for more details: https://cadth.ca/sites/default/files/cdr/complete/sr0484_complete_brivlera_jan-27-17.pdf
Provincial Review	<p>The Drug Benefit Council (the 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 is based on the CDEC recommendation and an internal review only.</p> <p>The DBC screened brivaracetam on July 4, 2016 when the CDR review of brivaracetam was underway. The DBC advised that because brivaracetam is similar to some of the other drugs used for the treatment of partial-onset seizures in adult patients, the Ministry may accept the CDEC's recommendation for brivaracetam.</p> <p>The ministry-initiated review of brivaracetam was not reviewed by the DBC.</p>
Drug Coverage Decision	Limited Coverage Benefit. This supercedes the Non-Benefit decision from October 24, 2017 Access the brivaracetam criteria from www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarespecialauthority
Date	September 3, 2021
Reason(s)	<p>Drug coverage decision is consistent with the CDEC recommendation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Based on clinical trials, brivaracetam demonstrated some advantages over placebo with respect to efficacy in patients who have uncontrolled partial-onset seizures despite simultaneous treatment with 1 to 3 antiepileptic drugs.In patients who were using levetiracetam at start of the studies, there were no significant advantages over placebo with respect to efficacy. In patients who were not using

	<p>levetiracetam at the start of the studies, there were some advantages over placebo in terms of efficacy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although the Ministry previously decided to not list brivaracetam on October 24, 2017, the Ministry identified some subgroups of patients who may benefit from adjunctive treatment with brivaracetam. Despite lack of strong evidence to suggest that brivaracetam has clinical or safety advantages over more cost-effective comparators such as levetiracetam, the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance negotiations with the manufacturer were able to address the concerns identified by the CDEC with respect to the cost-effectiveness and value for money. Therefore, the Ministry decided to list brivaracetam as a Limited Coverage Drug.
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.