

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	propylthiouracil
Brand Name	Halycil™
Dosage Form(s)	50 mg tablet
Manufacturer	Halewood Chemicals Ltd. (submitted by Accelerera Pharma Canada Inc.)
Submission Type	New Submission
Use Reviewed	Indicated for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the medical management of hyperthyroidism. In conjunction with radioiodine to hasten recovery while awaiting the effects of radiation. For the control of thyrotoxicosis prior to surgery. In the management of a thyroid storm in addition to other therapeutic measures.
Common Drug Review (CDR)	No CDR review
Provincial Review	A full Drug Benefit Council (DBC) review is not required and the Ministry's drug coverage decision is based on an internal review only.
Drug Coverage Decision	Regular Benefit
Date	May 31, 2022
Reason(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propylthiouracil (PTU) is a critical treatment of hyperthyroidism in special populations (e.g. pregnant women during their first trimester due to fewer severe birth defects compared to methimazole, and in patients whom treatment with methimazole or radioiodine therapy or surgery is contraindicated).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On December 11, 2019, Paladin Labs Inc., the only Canadian manufacturer of PTU tablets, discontinued their product (Propyl-thyracil®), resulting in a Tier 3 shortage. An internationally sourced product was required to fill this void, but it will no longer be available now that propylthiouracil (Halycil™) received Health Canada approval on October 6, 2021.
Other Information	N/A

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.