

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	clopidogrel
Brand Name	Plavix® and generics
Dosage Form	75 mg tablets
Manufacturer	Sanofi Canada (Plavix) and various generic manufacturers
Submission Type	Ministry Initiated
Use Reviewed	For the Health Canada approved indications for clopidogrel, such as for the prevention of atherothrombotic events in patients with acute coronary syndromes.
Common Drug Review (CDR)	No, CDR did not review.
Provincial Review	The review of clopidogrel as a PharmaCare Regular Benefit drug was reviewed internally and was not reviewed by the Drug Benefit Council (DBC).
Drug Coverage Decision	Regular Benefit
Date	March 20, 2020
Reasons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changing the PharmaCare coverage of clopidogrel from a Limited Coverage benefit (requiring Special Authority approval) to a Regular Benefit will reduce administrative burden to prescribers and will improve access to the drug by patients. Generic clopidogrel is priced at 10% of cost of brand Plavix, making it more cost-effective than when clopidogrel was initially reviewed.
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.