

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

AUGUST 1, 2023 UPDATE: Refer to the Drug Coverage Decision for B.C. PharmaCare FreeStyle® Libre 2 Flash Glucose Monitoring (FGM) System document for coverage decision updates effective August 1, 2023.

| Drug | Flash Glucose Monitoring (FGM) and Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) systems review |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Brand Name | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Dexcom G5® and Dexcom G6® CGM systems Freestyle® Libre and Freestyle Libre 2 FGM system Guardian™ Sensor (3) glucose sensor, GuardianLink (3) transmitter, and Guardian Connect CGM system |
| Manufacturer | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Dexcom Abbott Medtronic |
| Submission Type | New Submission |
| Use Reviewed | For glucose monitoring in patients with diabetes mellitus. |
| Common Drug Review (CDR) | No, CDR did not review |
| Provincial Review | The CGMs and FGMs were reviewed internally and various inputs were considered, including: the recommendations of BC's Health Technology Assessment Committee (HTAC); the findings of the Health Technology Assessment systematic review and network meta-analyses; implementation advice from the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH); Patient Input Questionnaire responses from 1,837 patients, 541 caregivers and 12 patient groups; budget impact assessments; and stakeholder feedback from endocrinologists, diabetes education centers, Nursing Support Services from BC Children's Hospital, and patient advocacy groups. |
| Drug Coverage Decision | Limited Coverage Benefit for the Dexcom G6 CGM system. Access the Dexcom G6 criteria from www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarespecialauthority |

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| | Non-Benefits for Dexcom G5, Freestyle Libre, Freestyle Libre 2, Guardian™ Sensor (3) glucose sensor, GuardianLink (3) transmitter, and Guardian Connect CGM system |
| Date | June 1, 2021 |
| Reasons | <p>Drug coverage decision is consistent with the HTAC recommendation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC’s HTAC concluded that glucose monitoring technologies, including CGMs, FGMs, and hybrid closed loop insulin delivery systems, provide no additional clinical benefits compared to fingerprick blood glucose tests, but provide non-clinical benefits. • The HTAC recommended that funding be provided based on functional, not clinical, need and that the Ministry should consult stakeholders to define eligible populations. • The HTAC recommended funding for FGMs as they were the most-cost effective option assessed, based on product prices at the time the review was conducted. • Stakeholder input and patient input suggested that FGMs and CGMs were a major advancement in technology compared to fingerprick blood glucose tests, and, when used correctly, they have the potential to improve the health of patients with diabetes. • The Ministry participated in negotiations with the manufacturers of the CGMs and FGMs, which were able to address the concerns identified by the HTAC with respect to the cost-effectiveness and value for money. |
| Other Information | Information regarding the HTAC’s recommendations and the Health Technology Assessment systematic review and network meta-analyses are available online . |

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.