



# Drug Coverage Decision for BC PharmaCare

## About PharmaCare

BC PharmaCare is a publicly funded drug plan that helps B.C. residents pay for most prescription drugs and pharmacy services, and some medical devices and supplies.

## Details of Drug Reviewed

<b>Drug</b>	<b>lemborexant</b>
Brand name	Dayvigo®
Dosage form(s)	5 mg and 10 mg tablets
Manufacturer	Eisai Limited
<b>Submission type</b>	<b>New Submission</b>
Indication reviewed	For the treatment of insomnia, characterized by difficulties with sleep onset and/or sleep maintenance
Canada’s Drug and Health Technology Agency (CADTH) recommendation	CADTH recommended: <b>Do Not Reimburse</b> . Visit the <a href="#">CADTH website for more details</a> .
Drug Benefit Council (DBC)	Lemborexant was reviewed internally and was not reviewed by the Drug Benefit Council (DBC) because it received a “do not list” recommendation from the CADTH.
<b>Drug Coverage Decision</b>	<b>Non-benefit</b>
Date	March 14, 2024
Reason(s)	Drug coverage decision is consistent with the Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC) recommendation that lemborexant not be reimbursed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two clinical trials showed that, compared to placebo, lemborexant resulted in improvements in the time it takes to fall asleep, the time spent awake after initially falling asleep, and the time spent sleeping divided by the total time spent in bed measured during sleep studies.</li> </ul>

- Based on the evidence reviewed by the CDEC, it is uncertain whether lemborexant offers a meaningful clinical benefit over other treatments used for insomnia. There was not enough evidence to conclude that lemborexant meets patients' needs for a treatment with long-term effectiveness that results in uninterrupted and restorative sleep, less stress and anxiety, improved productivity, improved relationships, and fewer side effects compared to other treatments for insomnia. It was also unclear if patients receiving lemborexant would be able to manage their sleep problems without becoming dependent on the medication.
- Based on economic considerations and the submitted product price, lemborexant was not cost effective and did not offer optimal value for money.
- The Ministry did not participate in the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA) negotiations because it received a do not list recommendation from the CDEC., and the pCPA negotiations concluded without an agreement between a participating jurisdiction and the manufacturer of lemborexant.

### **The drug review process in B.C.**

A manufacturer submits a request to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry).

An independent group called the [Drug Benefit Council \(DBC\)](#) gives advice to the Ministry by considering:

- whether the drug is safe and effective
- advice from a national group called [Canada's Drug and Health Technology Agency \(CADTH\)](#)
- what the drug costs and whether funding it provides good value to the province
- ethical considerations of covering and not covering the drug
- input from physicians, patients, caregivers, patient groups and drug submission sponsors

The Ministry makes a BC PharmaCare coverage decision by taking into account:

- existing BC PharmaCare policies, programs and resources
- the evidence-informed advice of the DBC
- drugs already covered by BC PharmaCare that treat similar medical conditions
- the overall cost of covering the drug

Visit [BC PharmaCare](#) and [Drug reviews](#) 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.