

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	insulin glargine and lixisenatide
Brand Name	Soliqua™
Dosage Form(s)	100 units/mL and 33 mcg/mL fixed-ratio combination solution for injection
Manufacturer	Sanofi-Aventis Canada Inc.
Submission Type	New Submission
Use Reviewed	Type 2 diabetes
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes, CDR recommended: to Reimburse with clinical criteria and/or conditions . Visit the CDR www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/cdr/complete/SR0564%20Soliqua%20-%20CDEC%20Final%20%20Recommendation%20January%203%2C%202019%20for%20posting.pdf
Provincial Review	The Drug Benefit Council (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 will be based on the Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC) recommendation and an internal review only. The DBC screened Soliqua™ on July 1, 2018. The DBC advised that because insulin glargine and lixisenatide fixed-ratio combination solution is similar to some of the other drugs used for the treatment of Type 2 diabetes, the Ministry may accept the CDEC's recommendation for insulin glargine and lixisenatide fixed-ratio combination solution.
Drug Coverage Decision	Non-Benefit
Date	March 13, 2020
Reason(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soliqua™ with or without metformin demonstrated some advantage over insulin glargine (Lantus®) with respect to the improvement in glycated haemoglobin (A1c) levels. Soliqua™ was similar to insulin glargine with respect to safety and quality of life. The CDEC noted that lixisenatide on its own failed to demonstrate any reduction in cardiovascular (CV) events when compared to standard of care, based on the ELIXA cardiovascular outcome trial (CVOT). CDEC also noted that Soliqua™ has a dose limitation of 60 units of insulin glargine, which makes it unsuitable for patients who require more than 60 units of insulin glargine daily. Administering the drugs separately likely allows for better dose titration to meet therapeutic objectives. The Ministry recently transitioned patients from the original biologic (originator) insulin glargine (Lantus®) to the biosimilar insulin glargine (Basaglar™) which is less costly. Lixisenatide, a component of Soliqua, belongs to a class of medications called glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonist (GLP-1 RA) drugs which are currently not eligible PharmaCare

	<p>benefits due to cost.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on economic considerations and the submitted product price, Soliqua™ was not cost effective. At higher doses, Soliqua™ is more costly than the publically available prices of the individual components (lixisenatide plus biosimilar insulin glargine). The Ministry did not participate in the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA).
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.