

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	liraglutide
Brand Name	Saxenda®
Dosage Form(s)	3 mg solution for injection in a pre-filled pen
Manufacturer	Novo Nordisk
Submission Type	New Submission
Use Reviewed	As an adjunct to a reduced-calorie diet and increased physical activity for chronic weight management in adult patients with an initial body mass index of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 kg/m² or greater (obese), or • 27 kg/m² or greater (overweight) in the presence of at least one weight-related comorbidity (e.g., hypertension, type 2 diabetes, or dyslipidemia) and how have failed a previous weight management intervention.
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes, CDR recommended: Do Not Reimburse.
Provincial Review	Liraglutide was reviewed internally and was not reviewed by the Drug Benefit Council (DBC) because the CDR recommended not to list for chronic weight management.
Drug Coverage Decision	Non-Benefit
Date	April 26, 2022
Reason(s)	Drug coverage decision is consistent with the Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC) recommendation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given the small magnitude of improvements, short duration of trials, lack of comparative data and the limitations of the available evidence, the clinical benefit of treatment with liraglutide was uncertain. Based on economic considerations and the submitted product price, the drug was not cost-effective.
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.