

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	buprenorphine hydrochloride
Brand Name	Probuphine™
Dosage Form	80 mg subdermal implant
Manufacturer	Knight Therapeutics Inc.
Submission Type	New Submission
Use Reviewed	For use in the management of opioid dependence in patients clinically stabilized on no more than 8 mg of sublingual buprenorphine in combination with counseling and psychosocial support.
Common Drug Review (CDR)	If CDR reviewed, include: Yes, CDR recommended: to Reimburse with clinical criteria and/or conditions . Visit the CDR website for more details: www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/cdr/complete/SR0550_Probuphine_Aug_24_18.pdf
Drug Benefit Council (DBC)	DBC met on September 10, 2018. DBC considered various inputs including: the final reviews completed by the CDR on August 22, 2018, which included clinical and pharmacoeconomic evidence review material and the recommendation from the Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC). The DBC also considered Patient Input Questionnaire responses from two patients, patient input provided to the CDR, Clinical Practice Reviews from one specialist, an Other Drug Agencies Review Recommendations document, and a Budget Impact Assessment.
Drug Coverage Decision	Non-Benefit
Date	February 25, 2020
Reasons	Drug coverage decision is consistent with the DBC recommendation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The drug did not demonstrate advantages over sublingual buprenorphine with respect to efficacy, safety, quality of life or social functioning. Based on economic considerations and the submitted product price, the drug was not cost effective and did not offer optimal value for money. The Ministry opted out of the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA) negotiations with Knight Pharmaceuticals Inc. for buprenorphine subdermal implant due to concerns

	identified by the CDEC and the DBC with respect to the cost-effectiveness and value for money.
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.