

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	Medroxyprogesterone acetate
Brand Name	Depo-Provera®
Dosage Form(s)	150 mg/mL pre-filled syringe
Manufacturer	Pfizer Canada Inc
Submission Type	Line Extension
Use Reviewed	Indicated for conception control (prevention of pregnancy) and treatment of endometriosis
Common Drug Review (CDR)	CDR did not review
Provincial Review	Medroxyprogesterone acetate 150 mg/mL prefilled syringes were reviewed internally. The Drug Benefit Council (DBC) does not usually review Line Extensions.
Drug Coverage Decision	Regular Benefit
Date	April 19, 2022
Reason(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depo-Provera is currently the only reliable, reversible, discrete, easy to access estrogen free injectable contraception method. Manufacturing of the regular benefit medroxyprogesterone acetate 150 mg vials has ceased until at least June 2023. The US-labelled pre-filled syringe format was made available in Canada but only as a bridge supply until June 2022. The Canadian-labelled pre-filled syringe format is being added to the PharmaCare formulary before the US-labelled supply is no longer available.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The price of the prefilled syringes is the same as the vials and therefore there is no expected impact on the PharmaCare budget.
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.