

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	dupilumab
Brand Name	Dupixent™
Dosage Forms	200 mg and 300 mg prefilled syringes
Manufacturer	Sanofi-Aventis Canada Inc.
Submission Type	New Indication
Use Reviewed	As a add-on maintenance treatment in patients aged 12 years and older with severe asthma
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes, the CDR recommended: to Reimburse with clinical criteria and/or conditions . Visit the CDR website for more details: www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/2021-06/CADTH_reimbursement_recommendation_dupilumab_%28dupixent%29_1.pdf
Provincial Review	The 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 CDEC recommendation and an internal review only. The DBC advised that because dupilumab is similar to some of the other drugs used for the treatment of asthma, the Ministry may accept the CDEC's recommendation for dupilumab.
Drug Coverage Decision	Non-Benefit
Date	September 20, 2022
Reasons	<p>Drug coverage decision is consistent with the CDR recommendation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dupilumab has demonstrated a reduction in the annualized rate of severe asthma exacerbations in patients with moderate to severe asthma compared to placebo when added to standard of care. • At the submitted price dupilumab is not considered cost-effective for this indication. The Ministry participated in the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance negotiations with the manufacturer and was not able to address the concerns identified by the CDEC with respect to 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.