

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	brexpiprazole
Brand Name	Rexulti®
Dosage Form(s)	0.25 mg, 0.5 mg, 1 mg, 2 mg, 3 mg and 4 mg tablet
Manufacturer	Otsuka Canada Pharmaceutical Inc.
Submission Type	New Submission
Use Reviewed	For the treatment of schizophrenia
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes, CDR recommended: to Reimburse with clinical criteria and/or conditions . Visit the CDR website for more details: https://www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/cdr/complete/SR0514_Rexulti_complete_Nov_24_17.pdf
Provincial Review	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 Rexulti® on April 3, 2017. The DBC advised that because brexpiprazole is similar to some of the other drugs used for the treatment of schizophrenia, the Ministry may accept the CDEC's recommendation for brexpiprazole.
Drug Coverage Decision	Limited Coverage Benefit. Access the brexpiprazole criteria from www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarespecialauthority
Date	December 17, 2019
Reason(s)	Drug coverage decision is consistent with the CDEC recommendation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brexpiprazole demonstrated some advantage over placebo with respect to efficacy and quality of life. Brexpiprazole is similar to placebo with respect to safety, but is associated with higher weight gain and Parkinson-like symptoms (e.g., restlessness).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on the submitted product price, brexpiprazole was more costly than most generic atypical antipsychotic (AAP) drugs including aripiprazole, olanzapine, quetiapine, risperidone and ziprasidone. The Ministry participated in the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA) negotiations with the manufacturer which were able to address the concerns identified by the CDEC with respect to the price of the drug to be equivalent to the lowest priced generic AAP drugs.
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 [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.