

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	glatiramer acetate
Brand Name	Copaxone®
Dosage Form(s)	40 mg/mL pre-filled syringe
Manufacturer	Teva Canada Innovation
Submission Type	Line Extension
Use Reviewed	Copaxone® is used to treat relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis.
Common Drug Review (CDR)	No, CDR did not review
Provincial Review	Copaxone® was reviewed internally, and not by the Drug Benefit Council (DBC) as this was a Line Extension request.
Drug Coverage Decision	Non-Benefit
Date	March 17, 2020
Reason(s)	<p>Drug coverage decision is consistent with the Ministry Decision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry participated in the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA) negotiations with the manufacturer which were not able to address the concerns identified by the Ministry with respect to cost-effectiveness and value for money. PharmaCare has changed coverage of all glatiramer products. Multiple sclerosis patients using Copaxone® brand glatiramer have transitioned to Glatect™ (in consultation with their prescriber) to maintain PharmaCare coverage.
Other Information	

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.