



Drug Coverage Decision for BC PharmaCare

About PharmaCare

BC PharmaCare is a publicly funded drug plan that helps B.C. residents pay for most prescription drugs and pharmacy services, and some medical devices and supplies.

Details of Drug Reviewed

Drug	brolocizumab
Brand name	Beovu®
Dosage form(s)	6 mg / 0.05 mL single-use pre-filled syringes for intravitreal injection
Manufacturer	Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc.
Submission type	New Submission
Use reviewed	For the treatment of diabetic macular edema (DME)
Canada’s Drug Agency (CDA-AMC) recommendation	CDA-AMC recommendation: to Reimburse with clinical criteria and/or conditions. Visit the CDA-AMC website for details .
Drug Benefit Council (DBC)	The Drug Benefit Council (DBC) screens drug submissions under review by the Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC) 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 brolocizumab is similar in mechanism of action to the other anti-vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) therapies funded through the Provincial Retinal Diseases Treatment Program (PRDTP), the Ministry may base their decision on the CDEC recommendation and internal review.
Drug Coverage Decision	Non-Benefit
Date	February 11, 2025
Reason(s)	The drug coverage decision is consistent with the CDEC recommendation to only reimburse brolocizumab if certain pricing conditions are met.

- Evidence from two clinical trials demonstrated that brolocizumab is no worse than aflibercept (Eylea®), an anti-VEGF reimbursed through the PRDTP, in maintaining or improving clearness or sharpness of vision in patients with DME.
- There was not enough evidence to show that injections are less frequent with brolocizumab compared to aflibercept. While the clinical evidence suggests there may be a benefit of brolocizumab in reducing treatment frequency while maintaining similar efficacy to other anti-VEGF therapies, there is insufficient evidence to confirm this benefit.
- Based on economic considerations and the submitted product price, the drug was not cost effective and did not offer value for money.

The drug review process in B.C.

A manufacturer submits a request to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry).

An independent group called the [Drug Benefit Council \(DBC\)](#) gives advice to the Ministry by considering:

- whether the drug is safe and effective
- advice from a national group called [Canada's Drug Agency - L'Agence des médicaments du Canada \(CDA-AMC\)](#)
- what the drug costs and whether funding it provides good value to the province
- ethical considerations of covering and not covering the drug
- input from physicians, patients, caregivers, patient groups and drug submission sponsors

The Ministry makes a BC PharmaCare coverage decision by taking into account:

- existing BC PharmaCare policies, programs and resources
- the evidence-informed advice of the DBC
- drugs already covered by BC PharmaCare that treat similar medical conditions
- the overall cost of covering the drug

Visit [BC PharmaCare](#) and [Drug reviews](#) 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.