

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	alemtuzumab
Brand Name	Lemtrada™
Dosage Form	12 mg/1.2 mL vial for intravenous infusion
Manufacturer	Genzyme Canada Inc.
Submission Type	New Submission
Use Reviewed	For the treatment of adults with Relapsing Remitting Multiple Sclerosis (RRMS)
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes, CDR recommended: to Reimburse with clinical criteria and/or conditions. Visit the CDR website for more details: www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/cdr/complete/cdr-complete-SR0405-Lemtrada-June-22-2015.pdf
Drug Benefit Council (DBC)	DBC met on July 6, 2015. The DBC considered various inputs including: general inputs (e.g. final review completed by the CDR, which included clinical and pharmacoeconomic evidence review material), input from one specialist and one general practitioner, and Patient Input Questionnaire responses from 54 Patients, 7 Caregivers, and one Patient Group, and Manufacturer comments to the CDEC Recommendation, as well as a Budget Impact Assessment.
Drug Coverage Decision	Limited Coverage Benefit. Access the alemtuzumab criteria from www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarespecialauthority
Date	February 6, 2018
Reasons	<p>Drug coverage decision is consistent with the DBC recommendation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The drug demonstrated some advantage over interferon beta-1a with respect to reductions in annualized relapse rate (ARR) and in the proportion of patients with time to six-month sustained accumulation of disability (SAD). • The drug was similar to interferon beta-1a with respect to safety (adverse events). • The Ministry participated in the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance negotiations with Genzyme Canada Inc. which were able to address the concerns identified by the DBC with respect to the 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 [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.