

# 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

<b>Drug</b>	<b>amifampridine phosphate</b>
Brand Name	Firdapse®
Dosage Form(s)	10 mg tablets
Manufacturer	KYE Pharmaceuticals Inc.
<b>Submission Type</b>	<b>New Submission</b>
Use Reviewed	Adult Lambert-Eaton Myasthenic Syndrome (LEMS)
Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH) Reimbursement Reviews (CRR)	Yes, the CRR recommended: <b>to Reimburse with clinical criteria and/or conditions</b> . Visit the CRR website for more details <a href="http://www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/DRR/2022/SR0664%20Firdapse%20-%20Final%20CADTH%20Recommendation%20(With%20Redactions)%20KH_LdL-Clean-meta.pdf">www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/DRR/2022/SR0664%20Firdapse%20-%20Final%20CADTH%20Recommendation%20(With%20Redactions)%20KH_LdL-Clean-meta.pdf</a>
Provincial Review	The DBC now screens drug submissions under review by the CRR 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 screened amifampridine phosphate. The DBC advised that because amifampridine phosphate is similar to some of the other drugs used for the treatment of LEMS, the Ministry may accept the CDEC's recommendation for amifampridine phosphate.
<b>Drug Coverage Decision</b>	<b>Limited Coverage Benefit. Access the Limited Coverage criteria from <a href="http://www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarespecialauthority">www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarespecialauthority</a></b>
Date	September 7, 2023.
Reason(s)	<b>Drug coverage decision is consistent with CDEC recommendation.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In two studies, amifampridine phosphate demonstrated some advantage over placebo in slowing disability progression associated with LEMS.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry participated in the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance negotiations with the manufacturer which were able to address the concerns identified by the CDEC with respect to value for money.</li> </ul>
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 [Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health \(CADTH\) Reimbursement Reviews\(CRR\)](#)
- 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.