

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	apremilast
Brand Name	Otezla®
Dosage Forms	10 mg, 20 mg, 30 mg tablets
Manufacturer	Celgene Inc.
Submission Type	Resubmission
Use Reviewed	Moderate to severe plaque psoriasis
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/SR0478_complete_Otezla-Oct-28-16.pdf
Provincial Review	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 CDEC recommendation and an internal review only. The DBC screened the resubmission for apremilast for the treatment of plaque psoriasis on May 2, 2016. The DBC advised that because apremilast is similar to other drugs for the treatment of plaque psoriasis, the Ministry may accept the CDEC's recommendation for apremilast for this indication.
Drug Coverage Decision	Non-Benefit
Date	October 10, 2017
Reasons	<p>Drug coverage decision is consistent with the CDR recommendation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The drug demonstrated some advantage over placebo with respect to efficacy and improving the quality of life of selected patients with moderate to severe plaque psoriasis. No studies were identified which directly compared the drug with other drug therapies or biologic drugs for the treatment of plaque psoriasis. Based on economic considerations and the submitted product price, the drug was not cost effective and did not offer value for money. The CDR recommended that the drug be listed for the treatment of moderate to severe plaque psoriasis with the condition of a reduced price. The pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA) and Celgene Inc. engaged in price negotiations; however, an agreement between the two parties was not reached.
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.