

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	azelastine hydrochloride – fluticasone propionate
Brand Name	Dymista®
Dosage Form(s)	137 mcg azelastine/50 mcg fluticasone nasal spray
Manufacturer	Meda Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
Submission Review	New Submission
Use Reviewed	For the treatment of moderate to severe seasonal allergic rhinitis and associated ocular symptoms
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes, CDR recommended: Do not list. Visit the CDR website for more details: www.cadth.ca/node/88649 .
Provincial Review	Azelastine hydrochloride – fluticasone propionate was reviewed internally and was not reviewed by the Drug Benefit Council (DBC) because the CDR recommended not to list for azelastine hydrochloride – fluticasone propionate.
Drug Coverage Decision	Non-Benefit
Date	September 29, 2015
Reason(s)	<p>The Ministry of Health reviewed clinical evidence and pharmacoeconomic reports prepared by the CDR, the final Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC) Recommendation and Reasons, Clinical Practice Reviews from two specialists and public input from one patient collected through the Ministry's patient input mechanism, Your Voice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDEC concluded that although azelastine hydrochloride – fluticasone propionate was statistically superior to fluticasone for improving nasal symptoms, the magnitude of improvement was small and of uncertain clinical significance. In addition azelastine hydrochloride – fluticasone propionate was not consistently shown to be statistically superior to fluticasone for improving ocular symptoms or quality of life. • Azelastine hydrochloride – fluticasone propionate is considerably more costly than fluticasone alone. • Based on economic considerations and the submitted product price, the drug was not cost effective and did not offer optimal 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:

- advice from a national group called the Common Drug Review
- whether the drug is safe and effective
- whether it is a good value for the people of B.C.
- the ethics of covering or not covering the drug
- input from physicians, patients, caregivers, patient groups and drug submission sponsors

The Ministry makes a decision based on many factors, including:

- advice from the DBC
- drugs used to treat similar medical conditions that B.C. PharmaCare already covers
- the overall cost of covering the drug

Visit the B.C. [Drug Review Process](#) and [PharmaCare](#) program 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.