

# 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>belimumab</b>
Brand Name	Benlysta
Dosage Form(s)	200 mg in 1 mL Subcutaneous Autoinjector
Manufacturer	GlaxoSmithKline Inc.
<b>Submission Type</b>	<b>New Submission</b>
Use Reviewed	As a treatment, in addition to standard therapy, for reducing disease activity in adult patients with active, autoantibody-positive Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE).
Common Drug Review (CDR)	CDR recommended: <b>Do Not Reimburse</b> . Visit the CDR website for more details: <a href="http://www.cadth.ca/node/88649">www.cadth.ca/node/88649</a> .
Provincial Review	Benlysta was reviewed internally and was not reviewed by the Drug Benefit Council (DBC) because the CDR recommended not to list for SLE.
<b>Drug Coverage Decision</b>	<b>Non-Benefit</b>
Date	July 6, 2021
Reason(s)	<b>Drug coverage decision is consistent with the CDR recommendation.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the BLISS-SC study, belimumab's response rate according to the SLE responder index was relatively modest compared to placebo. Also, belimumab did not significantly reduce the proportion of patients with SLE who were able to reduce the dose of prednisone to 7.5 mg/day or less; finally, there was no assessment on belimumab's effect on a patient's quality of life.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Based on economic considerations and the submitted product price, the drug is not cost effective.</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 [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 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.