

# 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>bimekizumab</b>
Brand Name	Bimzelx™
Dosage Forms	160 mg/mL pre-filled syringe and autoinjector
Manufacturer	UCB Canada Inc.
<b>Submission Type</b>	<b>New Submission</b>
Use Reviewed	For the treatment of moderate to severe plaque psoriasis in adult patients who are candidates for systemic therapy or phototherapy.
Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH) Reimbursement Review (CRR)	Yes, the CRR recommended: <b>to Reimburse with clinical criteria and/or conditions</b> . Visit the CRR website for more details: <a href="https://www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/DRR/2022/SR0698%20Bimzelx%20-%20CADTH%20Final%20Rec%20Final.pdf">https://www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/DRR/2022/SR0698%20Bimzelx%20-%20CADTH%20Final%20Rec%20Final.pdf</a>
Provincial Review	The Drug Benefit Council (DBC) screens drug submissions under review by the CRR to determine whether 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 of Health's (the Ministry's) drug coverage decision will be based on the Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC) recommendation and an internal review only. The DBC screened bimekizumab in November 2021. The DBC advised that because, bimekizumab is similar to some of the other drugs used for the treatment of plaque psoriasis, the Ministry may accept the CDEC's recommendation for bimekizumab.
<b>Drug Coverage Decision</b>	<b>Limited Coverage Benefit. Access the bimekizumab criteria from <a href="http://www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarespecialauthority">www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarespecialauthority</a></b>

Date	January 31, 2023
Reasons	<p><b>Drug coverage decision is consistent with the CDEC recommendation.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The drug demonstrated some advantages over placebo, ustekinumab, adalimumab, and secukinumab with respect to efficacy in the treatment of moderate to severe plaque psoriasis.</li> <li>• The Ministry participated in the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA) negotiations with the manufacturer which were able to address the concerns identified by the CDEC with respect to the cost-effectiveness and 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 [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.