

# 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>buprenorphine-naloxone</b>
Brand Name	Suboxone® Mylan-Buprenorphine/Naloxone TEVA-Buprenorphine/Naloxone
Dosage Forms	2 mg buprenorphine-0.5 mg naloxone, 8 mg buprenorphine-2 mg naloxone sublingual tablet
Manufacturer	RBP Canada Ltd. a subsidiary of Indivior PLC Mylan Pharmaceuticals Teva Canada Limited
<b>Submission Review</b>	<b>Ministry Initiated</b>
Use Reviewed	PharmaCare coverage status for substitution treatment in opioid drug dependence in adults
Common Drug Review (CDR)	In 2008, CDR recommended: List with criteria. Visit the CDR website for more details: <a href="http://www.cadth.ca/node/88649">www.cadth.ca/node/88649</a> .  Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH) published two Rapid Response reports. Visit the CDR website for more details: <a href="http://www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/pdf/htis/dec-2013/RC0495_Suboxone%20for%20opioid%20dependence_Final.pdf">www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/pdf/htis/dec-2013/RC0495_Suboxone%20for%20opioid%20dependence_Final.pdf</a> <a href="http://www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/pdf/htis/apr-2014/RC0521%20Suboxone%20for%20Withdrawal%20Management%20Final.pdf">www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/pdf/htis/apr-2014/RC0521%20Suboxone%20for%20Withdrawal%20Management%20Final.pdf</a>
Drug Benefit Council (DBC)	The DBC met on May 4, 2015. DBC considered various inputs including: the final review completed by the CDR in 2008; the previous DBC Recommendation on buprenorphine-naloxone; Clinical Practice Reviews from one specialist and one general practitioner; summaries of the Ministry's Compliance Review of collaborative prescribing agreements for buprenorphine-naloxone and Methadone Maintenance Payment Program Review Report; two Rapid Response reports by CADTH; and two other publications related to post-marketing surveillance of methadone and buprenorphine; and diversion of buprenorphine-naloxone:  <u>Notes:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dasgupta et al. Post-marketing Surveillance of Methadone and Buprenorphine in the United States. <i>Pain Medicine</i> 11 (2010) 1078–1091.</li> <li>Larancea et al. The diversion and injection of a buprenorphine-naloxone soluble film formulation. <i>Drug and Alcohol Dependence</i> 136 (2014) 21–27.</li> </ul>
<b>Drug Coverage Decision</b>	<b>Regular Benefit</b> (previously Limited Coverage Benefit)
Date	October 13, 2015

Reasons	<p><b>Drug coverage decision is consistent with the DBC recommendation.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New clinical data available since the initial review of buprenorphine-naloxone (including a 2014 Cochrane Collaboration review, and two CADTH reviews), information on use in practice, and cost considerations, provided evidence of the comparative safety and efficacy of buprenorphine-naloxone when compared to methadone.</li> <li>• New information from post-marketing surveillance and drug diversion found similar risks of rates of abuse, misuse, and diversion of both methadone and buprenorphine, although the buprenorphine-naloxone sublingual tablet formulation may require more effort to abuse or divert.</li> <li>• At the usual recommended doses, the overall cost of buprenorphine-naloxone is expected to be less then or similar to the annual drug cost of methadone.</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:

- 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.