

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	buprenorphine-naloxone
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
Submission Review	Ministry Initiated
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: www.cadth.ca/node/88649 . Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH) published two Rapid Response reports. Visit the CDR website for more details: 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/apr-2014/RC0521%20Suboxone%20for%20Withdrawal%20Management%20Final.pdf
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"> • Dasgupta et al. Post-marketing Surveillance of Methadone and Buprenorphine in the United States. Pain Medicine 11 (2010) 1078–1091. • Larancea et al. The diversion and injection of a buprenorphine-naloxone soluble film formulation. Drug and Alcohol Dependence 136 (2014) 21–27.
Drug Coverage Decision	Regular Benefit (previously Limited Coverage Benefit)
Date	October 13, 2015

Reasons	<p>Drug coverage decision is consistent with the DBC recommendation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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. • 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.
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.