

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	canakinumab
Brand Name	Ilaris®
Dosage Forms	150 mg powder for solution for subcutaneous injection
Manufacturer	Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc.
Submission Type	New Indication
Use Reviewed	For the treatment of active systemic Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (sJIA) in patients aged two years and older.
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes, CDR recommended: to Reimburse with clinical criteria and/or conditions . Visit the CDR website for more details: https://www.cadth.ca/about-cadth/what-we-do/products-services/cdr/reports
Drug Benefit Council (DBC)	DBC met on July 4, 2016. DBC considered various inputs including: clinical and pharmacoeconomic evidence review material and the recommendations from the Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC). The DBC also considered Patient Input Questionnaire responses from one patient, five caregivers, and one Patient Group, CDR Patient Group input, Clinical Practice Reviews from two specialists, and a Budget Impact Assessment.
Drug Coverage Decision	Non-Benefit
Date	January 10, 2017
Reasons	<p>Drug coverage decision is consistent with the DBC recommendation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no direct comparisons for canakinumab versus other treatments for sJIA. In two studies, canakinumab was better than placebo with regard to efficacy. • There is insufficient evidence to determine if canakinumab would be effective in patients that are either intolerant to or have not responded to other biologics. • Based on economic considerations and the submitted product price, the drug was not cost effective and did not offer optimal value for money. • The pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance and Novartis, the manufacturer of canakinumab, discussed drug pricing; however, optimal value for money for canakinumab could not be achieved.
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 [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.