



Drug Coverage Decision for B.C. PharmaCare

About PharmaCare

BC PharmaCare is a publicly funded drug plan that helps B.C. residents pay for most prescription drugs and pharmacy services, and some medical devices and supplies.

Details of Drug Reviewed

Drug	cariprazine
Brand name	Vraylar®
Dosage form(s)	1.5 mg, 3 mg, 4.5 mg, and 6 mg oral capsule
Manufacturer	AbbVie Corporation
Submission type	Resubmission
Indication reviewed	For the treatment of schizophrenia in adults
Canada's Drug Agency (CDA-AMC) Clinical Reimbursement Reviews (CRR)	CDA-AMC recommended: to Reimburse with clinical criteria and/or conditions. Visit the CRR website for more Cariprazine (Vraylar)
Drug Benefit Council (DBC)	The DBC now screens drug submissions under review by CRR to determine whether or not 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's drug coverage decision will be based on the Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC) recommendation and an internal review only. The DBC screened cariprazine. Since cariprazine is similar to other drugs that were previously reviewed by DBC for the treatment of schizophrenia, the Ministry may accept the CDEC's recommendation for cariprazine.
Drug Coverage Decision	Limited Coverage benefit. Access the cariprazine criteria from www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarespecialauthority
Date	February 4, 2025
Reason(s)	Drug coverage decision is consistent with the Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC) recommendations to list Vraylar for the treatment of schizophrenia in adults.

- Evidence from 3 clinical trials demonstrated that treatment with Vraylar for 6 weeks resulted in an overall improvement in symptoms of psychosis compared with placebo.
- Evidence from an additional 26-week clinical trial in adult patients with schizophrenia with mainly negative symptoms, treatment with Vraylar resulted in a greater improvement in the Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale (PANSS) factor score for negative symptoms compared with risperidone.
- Although many treatments are available for schizophrenia, substantial morbidity still exists. Vraylar may meet some needs that are important to patients by providing another treatment option that may reduce symptoms of psychosis, although it is unclear whether it reduces negative symptoms more than other available treatments.
- The Ministry participated in the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance 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.

The drug review process in B.C.

A manufacturer submits a request to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry).

An independent group called the [Drug Benefit Council \(DBC\)](#) gives advice to the Ministry by considering:

- whether the drug is safe and effective
- advice from a national group called [Canada's Drug Agency – L'Agence des médicaments du Canada \(CDA-AMC\)](#)
- what the drug costs and whether funding it provides good value to the province
- ethical considerations of covering and not covering the drug
- input from physicians, patients, caregivers, patient groups and drug submission sponsors

The Ministry makes a BC PharmaCare coverage decision by taking into account:

- existing BC PharmaCare policies, programs and resources
- the evidence-informed advice of the DBC
- drugs already covered by BC PharmaCare that treat similar medical conditions
- the overall cost of covering the drug

Visit [BC PharmaCare](#) and [Drug reviews](#) 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.