

# 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>apixaban</b>
Brand Name	Eliquis®
Dosage Form(s)	2.5 mg and 5 mg tablets
Manufacturer	Bristol-Myers Squibb Canada Inc.
<b>Submission Review</b>	<b>New Indication</b>
Use Reviewed	Apixaban was reviewed for the prevention of stroke and systemic embolism in patients with atrial fibrillation
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes. <a href="http://www.cadth.ca/media/cdr/complete/cdr_complete_Eliquis_SPAF_Mar-22-13-e.pdf">http://www.cadth.ca/media/cdr/complete/cdr_complete_Eliquis_SPAF_Mar-22-13-e.pdf</a>
Drug Benefit Council (DBC)	DBC met on May 13, 2013. The DBC considered: the final review completed by the Common Drug Review (CDR), Canadian Drug Expert Committee recommendation, Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health Therapeutic Review of Antithrombotic Agents for the Prevention of Stroke and Systemic Embolism in Patients with Atrial Fibrillation, Clinical Practice Reviews from one specialist and one general practitioner, and a Budget Impact Analysis. Patient input was not available for this review.
<b>Drug Coverage Decision</b>	<b>Limited Coverage benefit</b> <a href="http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/sa/criteria/restricted/apixabanAF.html">http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/sa/criteria/restricted/apixabanAF.html</a>
Date	Septemeber 19, 2013
Reason(s)	<b>Drug coverage decision is consistent with the DBC recommendation.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apixaban demonstrated fewer episodes of stroke and systemic embolism than warfarin and acetylsalicylic acid, but there were no differences in number of cardiovascular deaths.</li> <li>• Apixaban demonstrated lower risk of serious bleeding than warfarin, but similar to acetylsalicylic acid. There were no differences in other adverse effects.</li> <li>• Based on economic considerations and the product price, apixaban was more costly than warfarin, but similar to dabigatran and rivaroxaban.</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](#) gives advice to the Ministry. The Council 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. and the drugs cost
- 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 Council
- drugs used to treat similar medical conditions that B.C. PharmaCare already covers
- the overall cost of covering the drug

For more information about the B.C. Drug Review Process, please visit  
<http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/outgoing/drugrevproc2.pdf>.

To find out more about the Pharmaceutical Services Division and the PharmaCare program, visit  
[www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare).

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It does not take the place of advice from a physician or other qualified health care provider.