

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	grass pollen allergen extract
Brand Name	Oralair™
Dosage Form(s)	100 mg immediate release sublingual tablets 300 mg immediate release sublingual tablets
Manufacturer	Paladin Laboratories Inc.
Submission Review	New Submission
Use Reviewed	For the treatment of symptoms of moderate to severe seasonal grass pollen allergic rhinitis
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes; CDR recommended to list with criteria and condition. http://www.cadth.ca/media/cdr/complete/cdr_complete_Oralair_March-25-13_e.pdf
Drug Benefit Council (DBC)	DBC met on June 10, 2013; DBC considered the following: final review completed by the Common Drug Review (CDR) on March 20, 2013, which included clinical and pharmaco-economic evidence review material and the recommendation from the Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC). The DBC also considered Clinical Practice Reviews from 2 specialists, Manufacturer comments, as well as a Budget Impact Assessment. There were no Patient Input Questionnaire responses from patients, caregivers or patient groups.
Drug Coverage Decision	Non-Benefit
Date	October 31, 2013
Reason(s)	<p>Drug coverage decision is consistent with the DBC recommendation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on the available evidence, 5-grass pollen allergen extract (5-GPAE) was compared to placebo and was better than placebo for symptom management of allergic rhinitis, but there was no improvement in quality of life. There is no clinical evidence comparing 5-GPAE to subcutaneous allergen-specific immunotherapy (SCIT), which is a current standard of care. At the submitted price, seasonal treatment with 5-GPAE is more costly than SCIT for allergic rhinitis. The longer pollen season in BC may lead to a greater budget impact for this therapy.
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.

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