

# 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>palonosetron</b>
Brand Name	Aloxi®
Dosage Form	0.25 mg/5 mL injection
Manufacturer	Eisai Limited
<b>Submission Review</b>	<b>New Submission</b>
Use Reviewed	To prevent nausea and vomiting caused by cancer chemotherapy.
Common Drug Review (CDR)	CDR recommended that Aloxi® injection not be listed at the resubmitted price: <a href="http://www.cadth.ca/media/cdr/complete/cdr_complete_Aloxi%20IV_may-17-13.pdf">http://www.cadth.ca/media/cdr/complete/cdr_complete_Aloxi%20IV_may-17-13.pdf</a>
Drug Benefit Council (DBC)	DBC met on July 15, 2013. DBC considered various inputs including: the final review completed by the CDR, which included clinical and pharmacoeconomic evidence review material, input from a specialist, budget impact analysis, manufacturer comments and responses to patient input questionnaires from one caregiver.
<b>Drug Coverage Decision</b>	<b>Non-benefit</b>
Date	October 31, 2013
Reason(s)	<p><b>Drug coverage decision is consistent with the DBC recommendation.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The drug did not demonstrate advantages over ondansetron (Zofran®) or granisetron (Kytril®) with respect to efficacy, safety and/or quality of life.</li> <li>• Based on economic considerations and the submitted product price, the drug was more costly than the available alternatives.</li> <li>• Palonosetron injection is administered as a single injection prior to chemotherapy and usually would not be administered in outpatient setting.</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.