

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	pegvisomant
Brand Name	Somavert®
Dosage Form(s)	10 mg/ vial, 15 mg/vial and 20 mg/vial
Manufacturer	Pfizer Canada Inc.
Submission Review	Resubmission
Use Reviewed	The treatment of acromegaly in patients who have had an inadequate response to surgery, and/or radiation therapy, and other medical therapies, or for whom these therapies are not appropriate.
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes, in the first submission on August 2, 2006: http://www.cadth.ca/media/cdr/complete/cdr_complete_Somavert_%20August2_2006.pdf
Drug Benefit Council (DBC)	DBC met on September 9, 2013. DBC considered: a systematic review of the clinical evidence, a pharmacoeconomic report, a Clinical Practice Review from a Specialist, Manufacturer comments, responses to Patient Input Questionnaires from 2 patients and 1 caregiver, and a Budget Impact Analysis.
Drug Coverage Decision	Non-benefit
Date	January 14, 2014
Reason(s)	<p>Drug coverage decision is consistent with the DBC recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based from the systematic review of the clinical evidence, no double-blind randomized controlled trials (RCTs) was identified comparing pegvisomant to placebo or other standard therapy in patients with acromegaly who had an inadequate response to surgery, radiation or other medical therapies, or for whom these therapies are not appropriate. The long-term benefit and harm of pegvisomant has not been studied in scientifically valid double-blind RCTs in patients who have had an inadequate response to surgery and/or radiation therapy, and received treatment with medical therapy for at least 6 months. Pegvisomant therapy costs approximately \$60,000 to \$80,000 per year for doses of 15 and 20 mg per day, respectively (based on list price). At the current price, there is no evidence that pegvisomant therapy provides a cost-effectiveness advantage over standard therapy in patients with acromegaly as a treatment of last resort.
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.

This document is intended for information only.

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