

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	eculizumab
Brand Name	Soliris®
Dosage Form(s)	300 mg/vial
Manufacturer	Alexion Pharmaceuticals Inc.
Submission Review	New Submission
Use Reviewed	Eculizumab was reviewed for the treatment of atypical hemolytic uremic syndrome (aHUS)
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes, CDR recommended Do not list Visit CDR website for more details: http://www.cadth.ca/media/cdr/complete/cdr_complete_Soliris-aHUS_July-23-13.pdf
Drug Benefit Council (DBC)	DBC met on October 21, 2013. DBC considered various inputs including: clinical and pharmacoeconomic evidence review material and the recommendation from the Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC); a Clinical Practice Review from two Specialists; Manufacturer comments; responses to Patient Input Questionnaires from 1 patient, 1 caregiver, and 1 patient group; 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"> • The clinical efficacy review did not identify any randomized controlled trials to be included in the review. • The clinical efficacy review included three uncontrolled trials. These studies had several important limitations including: no control group (eculizumab was not compared to anything), short duration of trials and no data on clinically important outcomes. • As a result of these limitations, it is unclear what advantages and disadvantages eculizumab has compared to other standard means of treating aHUS. • With unclear comparative clinical advantages and very high per-patient costs (about \$730,000 in the first year and \$700,000 in subsequent years), eculizumab is likely not cost-effective and would result in a significant budget impact.
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 Medical Beneficiary and 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.