

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	adalimumab
Brand Name	Humira®
Dosage Form(s)	40 mg/0.8 mL
Manufacturer	AbbVie Corporation
Submission Review	New Indication
Use Reviewed	Moderate to severe polyarticular Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (pJIA)
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes. http://www.cadth.ca/media/cdr/complete/cdr_complete_Humira-JIA_July-22-13_e.pdf
Drug Benefit Council (DBC)	DBC met on October 21, 2013. DBC considered: the final review by the Common Drug Review (CDR), Canadian Drug Expert Committee recommendation, Clinical Practice Review from one specialist, responses to a Patient Input Questionnaire from 11 patients, 2 caregivers, and 2 patient groups; and a Budget Impact Analysis.
Drug Coverage Decision	Limited Coverage benefit http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/sa/criteria/genericbrandtable.html#
Date	February 25, 2014
Reason(s)	<p>Drug coverage decision is consistent with the DBC recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adalimumab was more effective than placebo for reducing the proportion of patients experiencing a disease flare, with or without methotrexate (MTX). Adalimumab plus MTX, was superior to placebo plus MTX for achieving American College of Rheumatology (ACR) pediatric (Pedi) 30 and ACR Pedi 70 responses. • There are no direct comparison between adalimumab and other biologics used for the treatment of pJIA. • The annual cost of adalimumab is at the upper end of the range of costs for etanercept and abatacept, the comparator biologic drugs that are eligible PharmaCare benefits for pJIA. Adalimumab is more costly in patients with lower weight (less than 50 kg to 60 kg) due to wastage.
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.