

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	Dimethyl fumerate
Brand Name	Tecfidera™
Dosage Form(s)	120 mg capsule, 240 mg capsule
Manufacturer	Biogen Idec Canada Inc.
Submission Review	New Submission and Line Extensions
Use Reviewed	For the treatment of relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis (RRMS)
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes, CDR Recommended List with Criteria. Visit the CDR website for more details: http://www.cadth.ca/media/cdr/complete/cdr_complete_Tecfidera_September_30-13.pdf
Drug Benefit Council (DBC)	DBC met on November 18, 2013. DBC considered various inputs including: clinical and pharmaco-economic evidence review material, patient input from one patient group and the recommendation from the Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC); a CADTH Therapeutic Review on “Comparative Clinical and Cost-Effectiveness of Drug Therapies for Relapsing-Remitting Multiple Sclerosis”, Clinical Practice Reviews from two Specialists, Manufacturer comments; responses to Patient Input Questionnaires from 6 patients, and 1 patient group; and a Budget Impact Analysis.
Drug Coverage Decision	<u>Limited Coverage</u>
Date	June 24, 2014
Reason(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DBC recommended that dimethyl fumerate be added as a third-line option for the treatment of RRMS mostly due to uncertain cost-effectiveness. The drug was similar to other treatment options for the treatment of RRMS with respect to efficacy and safety. The Ministry of Health was able to address cost concerns raised by the DBC and therefore, dimethyl fumerate is added as a Limited Coverage benefit with criteria for first-line treatment of RRMS.
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.