

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.