

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	dipeptidyl peptidase-4 (DPP-4) inhibitors		
	linagliptin; linagliptin-metformin	saxagliptin; saxagliptin-metformin	sitagliptin; sitagliptin-metformin
Brand Name	Trajenta®; Jentadueto™	Onglyza®; Komboglyze™	Januvia®, Janumet®, Janumet® XR
Dosage Form(s)	5 mg tablet, 2.5 mg/500 mg tablet, 2.5 mg/850 mg tablet, 2.5 mg/1000 mg tablet	2.5 mg tablet, 5 mg tablet, 2.5 mg/500 mg tablet, 2.5 mg/850 mg tablet, 2.5 mg/1000 mg tablet	25 mg tablet, 50 mg tablet, 100 mg tablet, 50 mg/500 mg tablet and XR tablet, 50 mg/850 mg tablet, 50 mg/1000 mg tablet and XR tablet 50 mg/1000 mg XR tablet
Manufacturer	Boeingerher Ingelheim Canada	AstraZeneca Canada Inc.	Merck Canada Inc.
Submission Review	Therapeutic review for DPP-4 inhibitors		
Use Reviewed	Type 2 diabetes mellitus		
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes—See the Optimal Use Report from the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technology in Health (CADTH), “Third-Line Pharmacotherapy for Type 2 Diabetes” at www.cadth.ca/en/products/optimal-use/second-line-therapies/reports See the Common Drug Review of individual DPP-4 inhibitors at www.cadth.ca/en/products/cdr		
Drug Benefit Council (DBC)	Yes		
Drug Coverage Decisions	linagliptin	linagliptin-metformin; saxagliptin; saxagliptin-metformin	sitagliptin; sitagliptin-metformin
	No change, continues to be Limited Coverage benefit. www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/sa/criteria/restricted/linagliptin.html	Limited Coverage benefits www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/sa/criteria/restricted/saxagliptin.html	Non-Benefit
Reason	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The B.C. Ministry of Health, Medical Beneficiary and Pharmaceutical Services Division (MBPSD) is responsible for maintaining a contemporary PharmaCare formulary which is accountable, cost-effective and sustainable. To support this, the Ministry regularly reviews and updates the PharmaCare formulary. MBPSD initiated a comprehensive therapeutic review of the DPP-4 inhibitor drugs. For the DPP-4 inhibitors review, the DBC reviewed the CDRs final review of saxagliptin completed on November 15, 2013, which included clinical and pharmacoeconomic evidence review material and the recommendation from the Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC). The DBC also considered Optimal Use Report from the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technology in Health (CADTH), Third-Line Pharmacotherapy for Type 2 Diabetes—Update; the Examination of Cardiovascular Outcomes with Alogliptin versus Standard of Care (EXAMINE) study ; and the Saxagliptin Assessment of Vascular Outcomes Recorded in Patients with Diabetes Mellitus 		

Thrombolysis in Myocardial Infarction (SAVOR-TIMI) 53 study.

- The DBC concluded that DPP-4 inhibitors have similar clinical efficacy and harms, therefore the DBC recommended that the Ministry should provide coverage based on the best value for money.
- Based on this finding, MBPSD engaged manufacturers of sitagliptin, linagliptin and saxagliptin through a fair process to seek best value for money and to provide reasonable product choice.
- As a result, PharmaCare will no longer cover sitagliptin and sitagliptin-metformin but will cover four linagliptin, linagliptin-metformin, saxagliptin, and saxagliptin-metformin.

Of Note:

- PharmaCare provides one of the most generous diabetes coverage programs in Canada. PharmaCare spent over \$75 million on diabetes medications and supplies in 2012/13. The Ministry and PharmaCare provides British Columbians who have diabetes with coverage for:
 - insulin and other diabetes medications;
 - insulin pumps for individuals age 25 and under;
 - insulin pump supplies (infusion sets and reservoirs) for individuals of any age;
 - blood glucose test strips;
 - needles and syringes for insulin use; and
 - drug treatments for diabetic macular edema

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 drug's 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

www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/outgoing/drugrevproc2.pdf.

To find out more about the Medical Beneficiary & 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.