

# 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

<b>Drug</b>	<b>azilsartan</b>
Brand Name	Edarbi®
Dosage Form(s)	40 mg, 80 mg tablets
Manufacturer	Takeda Canada Incorporated
<b>Submission Review</b>	<b>New Submission</b>
Use Reviewed	Mild to moderate essential hypertension
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes. CDR recommended do not list at the submitted price. Visit CDR website for more details: <a href="http://www.cadth.ca/media/cdr/complete/cdr_complete_Edarbi_October-21-13_e.pdf">http://www.cadth.ca/media/cdr/complete/cdr_complete_Edarbi_October-21-13_e.pdf</a>
Drug Benefit Council (DBC)	DBC met on December 9, 2013. DBC considered various inputs including the final review completed by the Common Drug Review (CDR) on October 17, 2013, which included clinical and pharmacoeconomic evidence review material, a Clinical Practice Review from a Specialist, and a Budget Impact Analysis. No patient input was received.
<b>Drug Coverage Decision</b>	<b>Non-Benefit</b>
Date	July 29, 2014
Reason(s)	<p><b>Drug coverage decision is consistent with the DBC recommendation.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Azilsartan did not demonstrate clinical and safety advantages over valsartan or candesartan.</li> <li>• Based on economic considerations and the submitted product price, the drug cost was higher than cost of the similar drugs.</li> </ul>
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](http://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.