

# 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>deferiprone</b>
Brand Name	Ferriprox™
Dosage Form(s)	Tablet and oral solution
Manufacturer	Apo Pharma Inc.
<b>Submission Type</b>	<b>New Submission</b>
Use Reviewed	Transfusional iron overload due to thalassemia syndromes
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes, CDR recommended: <b>to List with clinical criteria and/or conditions</b> Visit the CDR website for more details: <a href="http://www.cadth.ca/node/88649">www.cadth.ca/node/88649</a> .
Drug Benefit Council (DBC)	The DBC screened Ferriprox™ and advised that because deferiprone is similar to some of the other drugs used for the treatment of transfusional overload which have been reviewed by the DBC in the past, the Ministry may accept the Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC) recommendation for deferiprone.
<b>Drug Coverage Decision</b>	<b>Limited Coverage Benefit</b> <b>Access the deferiprone criteria from <a href="http://www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarespecialauthority">www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarespecialauthority</a></b>
Date	October 25, 2016
Reason(s)	<p>Ferriprox™ was not reviewed by the DBC because deferiprone is similar to some of the other drugs used for the treatment of transfusional overload, which have been already reviewed by the DBC in the past. The Ministry of Health (the Ministry) reviewed clinical evidence and pharmaco-economic reports prepared by the CDR, the Final CDEC Recommendation and Reasons, and patient input from one patient group received by the CDR.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Based on available clinical and safety data, deferiprone is likely similar to comparators with some adverse effects that may occur more frequently with deferiprone.</li> <li>There is a significant unmet need for the treatment of thalassemia patients who are unable to achieve adequate chelation with existing therapies, or for whom toxicity prevents the use of alternative treatment options.</li> <li>The Ministry participated in the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance negotiations with the manufacturer of deferiprone and the participating jurisdictions were able to reach an agreement with the manufacturer.</li> </ul>
Other Information	N/A

### 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 \(DBC\)](#) gives advice to the Ministry. The DBC looks at:

- whether the drug is safe and effective
- advice from a national group called the [Common Drug Review \(CDR\)](#)
- what the drug costs and whether it is a good value for the people of B.C.
- ethical considerations involved with covering or not covering the drug
- input from physicians, patients, caregivers, patient groups and drug submission sponsors

The Ministry makes PharmaCare coverage decisions by taking into account:

- the existing PharmaCare policies, programs and resources
- the evidence-informed advice of the DBC
- the drugs already covered by PharmaCare that are used to treat similar medical conditions
- the overall cost of covering the drug

Visit the [The Drug Review Process in B.C. - Overview](#) and [Ministry of Health - PharmaCare](#) for more information.

**This document is intended for information only.**

It does not take the place of advice from a physician or other qualified health care provider.