

# Drug Coverage Decision for BC PharmaCare

## About PharmaCare

BC PharmaCare is a publicly funded drug plan that helps B.C. residents pay for most prescription drugs and pharmacy services, and some medical devices and supplies.

## Details of Drug Reviewed

<b>Drug</b>	<b>Denosumab biosimilars</b>	
Brand name	Jubbonti®	Wyost™
Dosage form(s)	60 mg/mL single-dose, pre-filled syringe	120mg/1.7 mL single-use vial
Manufacturer	Sandoz Canada Inc.	
<b>Submission type</b>	<b>New Submission</b>	
Indications reviewed	Jubbonti: osteoporosis Wyost: hypercalcemia of malignancy (PharmaCare Plan P [palliative care] benefit)	
Canada's Drug Agency (CDA-AMC) recommendation	CDA-AMC did not review.	
Drug Benefit Council (DBC)	The DBC no longer reviews biosimilars, as Health Canada's biosimilar reviews are thorough and do not compromise efficacy and patient safety. As such, the Ministry of Health's coverage decision for the denosumab biosimilars is based on an internal review.	
<b>Drug Coverage Decision</b>	<b>Limited Coverage benefit. Access the denosumab criteria for osteoporosis from <a href="http://www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarespecialauthority">www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarespecialauthority</a></b>	
Date	August 29, 2024	
Reasons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health Canada's review concluded that the denosumab biosimilars were similar to and had no clinically meaningful differences from the biologic reference drugs, Prolia® and Xgeva®, with respect to efficacy, safety, pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, and immunogenicity.</li> <li>Based on the submitted product price, the denosumab biosimilars cost substantially less than the biologic reference drugs.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BC participated in the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA) negotiations which concluded with agreements with the manufacturer of the denosumab biosimilars (Jubbonti and Wyost).</li> </ul>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On <b>August 29, 2024</b>, all new Special Authority (SA) requests, including renewals, for denosumab will only be approved for Jubbonti or Wyost (exceptional SA coverage only for Wyost).</li> <li>• On <b>August 29, 2024</b>, the 6-month transition period starts, which means that patients with existing PharmaCare coverage for Prolia or Xgeva, and who wish to maintain their PharmaCare coverage, must, in consultation with their prescriber, switch to Jubbonti or Wyost by <b>March 3, 2025</b>.</li> <li>• During the 6-month transition period, both Prolia and Jubbonti will be covered for patients with existing denosumab SA approval, with no new SA request required for coverage of the biosimilar until the next SA renewal date (if applicable).</li> <li>• During the 6-month transition period, both Xgeva and Wyost will be covered for Plan P patients.</li> <li>• To maintain patients' PharmaCare coverage, prescribers must write a new prescription for their patients on Prolia or Xgeva, indicating the transition to a specific biosimilar before the end of the 6-month transition period.</li> <li>• On <b>March 4, 2025</b>, PharmaCare coverage for Prolia and Xgeva comes to an end and only the denosumab biosimilar products will be authorized for continued coverage.</li> <li>• Additional information is available online at <a href="http://www.gov.bc.ca/biosimilars/">www.gov.bc.ca/biosimilars/</a></li> </ul>

### **The drug review process in B.C.**

A manufacturer submits a request to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry).

An independent group called the [Drug Benefit Council \(DBC\)](#) gives advice to the Ministry by considering:

- whether the drug is safe and effective
- advice from a national group called [Canada's Drug and Health Technology Agency \(CADTH\)](#)
- what the drug costs and whether funding it provides good value to the province
- ethical considerations of covering and not covering the drug
- input from physicians, patients, caregivers, patient groups and drug submission sponsors

The Ministry makes a BC PharmaCare coverage decision by taking into account:

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

Visit [BC PharmaCare](#) and [Drug reviews](#) 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.