

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	dupilumab
Brand Name	Dupilent®
Dosage Forms	200 mg prefilled syringe and prefilled pen 300 mg prefilled syringe and prefilled pen
Manufacturer	Sanofi-Aventis Canada Inc.
Submission Type	New Submission
Use Reviewed	As an add-on maintenance treatment in patients aged 6 years and older with severe asthma.
Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH) Reimbursement Reviews (CRR)	Yes, the CRR recommended: to Reimburse with clinical criteria and/or conditions . Visit the CRR website for more details: www.cadth.ca/dupilumab-3
Provincial Review	The Drug Benefit Council (DBC) screens drug submissions under review by the CRR to determine whether a full DBC review is necessary, based on past DBC reviews, recommendations, and existing PharmaCare coverage. If a full DBC review is determined to not be required, the Ministry's drug coverage decision will be based on the Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC) recommendation and an internal review only. The DBC screened dupilumab for asthma in December 2020 and October 2022. The DBC advised that because dupilumab is similar to other drugs used for the treatment of asthma, the Ministry may accept the CDEC's recommendation for dupilumab.
Drug Coverage Decision	Limited Coverage Benefit. Access the dupilumab criteria from www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarespecialauthority

Date	October 17, 2023
Reasons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previously, dupilumab was reviewed by CDEC for add-on maintenance treatment in patients aged 12 years and older with severe asthma with a Type 2/eosinophilic phenotype or oral corticosteroid-dependent asthma, and on June 8, 2021, the CDEC recommended to reimburse dupilumab for patients aged 12 years and older with a condition that the price will need to be reduced as dupilumab was not cost-effective compared to standard of care. • On September 20, 2022, the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) decided not to list dupilumab for add-on maintenance treatment in patients aged 12 years and older with severe asthma. • Currently, dupilumab is reviewed for add-on maintenance treatment in patients aged 6 years and older with severe asthma with a Type 2/eosinophilic phenotype or oral corticosteroid-dependent asthma. • The evidence reviewed for patients aged 6 years and older, demonstrated advantage over placebo with respect to efficacy, such as reducing the annualized rate of severe asthma exacerbations and improving pulmonary function. • Based on economic considerations and the submitted product price, dupilumab was not cost effective compared to standard of care for the patients aged 6 years and older. • The Ministry participated in the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance(pCPA) negotiations with the manufacturer for aged 6 years and older, and the negotiations were able to address the concerns identified by the CDEC with respect to the cost-effectiveness and value for money. • On October 17, 2023, the Ministry decided to list dupilumab as an add-on maintenance treatment in patients aged 6 years to younger than 12 years, and aged 12 years and older with severe asthma with a eosinophilic phenotype or oral corticosteroid-dependent asthma. Therefore, this listing will supersede the non-benefit decision for patients aged 12 years and older that was made on September 20, 2022.
Other Information	This Drug Decision Summary for dupilumab for asthma dated October 17, 2023, supersedes the Drug Decision Summary dated September 20, 2022.

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 [Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health \(CADTH\) Reimbursement Reviews\(CRR\)](#)
- 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 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.