

# 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>eltrombopag</b>
Brand Name	Revolade®
Dosage Form(s)	25 mg, 50 mg, 75 mg
Manufacturer	GlaxoSmithKline Inc.
<b>Submission Review</b>	<b>New Indication</b>
Use Reviewed	Chronic Hepatitis C Associated Thrombocytopenia (low platelet counts)
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes, CDR recommended: <b>List with Criteria and Condition</b> Visit the CDR website for more details: <a href="https://www.cadth.ca/node/88649">https://www.cadth.ca/node/88649</a> .
Drug Benefit Council (DBC)	DBC met on April 13, 2015. DBC considered various inputs including: final review completed by the CDR on March 18, 2015, which included clinical and pharmacoeconomic evidence review material and the CDEC recommendation. The DBC also considered patient input questionnaire responses from one patient group, clinical practice reviews from two specialists, manufacturer comments, as well as a budget impact assessment.
<b>Drug Coverage Decision</b>	<b>Non-Benefit</b>
Date	July 14, 2015
Reason(s)	<p>Drug coverage decision is consistent with the DBC recommendation which recommended not to list at the submitted price. The DBC also provided of note section that if the Ministry decides to provide coverage, it may consider providing coverage if interferon (INF)-free therapy is not available and patient cannot take interferon-based treatments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In two of the three randomized placebo trials, a greater proportion of eltrombopag treated patients had a reduction in their viral load, compared to the placebo-treated patients.</li> <li>• Eltrombopag in combination with pegylated interferon (PEG-IFN) and ribavirin (RBV) was associated with a higher frequency of clotting side effects, liver associated side effects, and events suggestive of liver deterioration than placebo in combination with PEG-IFN.</li> <li>• At the submitted price, enabling and maintaining treatment with eltrombopag compared with treatment with a reduced dose of IFN or no IFN treatment was considered not cost effective.</li> <li>• On March 24, 2015, the following INF-free therapies became PharmaCare Limited Coverage benefits: sofosbuvir in combination with ribavirin for genotype 2 and 3 patients; and sofosbuvir-ledipasvir for genotype 1 chronic hepatitis C.</li> <li>• With new INF-free treatments, eltrombopag no longer fills unmet need in the treatment of chronic hepatitis C.</li> </ul>

Other Information	None
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### 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:

- 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.
- 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 DBC
- drugs used to treat similar medical conditions that B.C. PharmaCare already covers
- the overall cost of covering the drug

Visit the B.C. [Drug Review Process](#) and [PharmaCare](#) program 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.