

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	eslicarbazepine
Brand Name	Aptiom™
Dosage Form(s)	200 mg, 400 mg, 600 mg and 800 mg tablets
Manufacturer	Sunovion Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc.
Submission Review	New Submission
Use Reviewed	Eslicarbazepine is indicated for adjunctive therapy in the treatment of partial-onset seizures in patients with epilepsy who are not satisfactorily controlled with conventional therapy
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes, CDR recommended: to List with criteria and conditions . Visit the CDR website for more details: https://www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/cdr/complete/cdr_complete_SR0391_Aptiom_Apr-20-15.pdf .
Drug Benefit Council (DBC) or Provincial Review	DBC now screens drug submissions under review by the CDR to determine whether or not 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 CDEC recommendation and an internal review only. The DBC screened eslicarbazepine on February 2, 2015. The DBC advised that because eslicarbazepine is similar to other drugs previously reviewed by the Council for the treatment of partial-onset seizures, the Ministry may accept the CDEC's recommendation for eslicarbazepine.
Drug Coverage Decision	Limited Coverage Benefit. Access the eslicarbazepine criteria from www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarespecialauthority
Date	November 10, 2015
Reasons	The Ministry of Health reviewed clinical evidence and pharmacoeconomic reports prepared by the CDR, the final Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC) Recommendation and Reasons, and patient input from one patient, three caregivers, and one patient group collected through Your Voice. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eslicarbazepine demonstrated advantage over placebo in seizure frequency and proportion of patients that achieved a 50% reduction in seizures. • Based on the confidential price submitted through CDR, treatment with eslicarbazepine is less costly than treatment with some other adjunctive anti-epileptic drugs based on their transparent prices.
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](#) (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.