

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	etanercept
Brand Name	Erelzi™
Dosage Forms	25 mg pre-filled syringe, 50 mg pre-filled syringe and 50 mg pre-filled auto-injector
Manufacturer	Sandoz Canada Inc.
Submission Type	New Submission
Use Reviewed	Rheumatoid arthritis (RA), ankylosing spondylitis (AS) and polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA),
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes, CDR recommended: to Reimburse with clinical criteria and/or conditions . Visit the CDR website for more details: https://www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/cdr/complete/SE0513_complete_Erelzi_Jul_28_17_e.pdf
Provincial Review	The Drug Benefit Council (the 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 is based on the Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC) recommendation and a provincial internal review only. The DBC screened Erelzi on April 3, 2017 and advised that because Erelzi is the second biosimilar of etanercept, the Ministry may accept the CDEC's recommendation for Erelzi.
Drug Coverage Decision	Limited Coverage Benefit. Access the Erelzi criteria from www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarespecialauthority
Date	November 14, 2017
Reasons	Drug coverage decision is consistent with the CDEC recommendation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The drug was similar to the reference drug, etanercept (Enbrel®), with respect to efficacy, safety, pharmacokinetics and immunogenicity. • Based on a clinical trial for Erelzi, the results suggested that switching from Enbrel to Erelzi and vice-versa can be performed safely and without any loss of efficacy. • Based on economic considerations and the product price, the drug was cost effective and offered value for money.
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:

- 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.