

# 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>	etonogestrel
Brand Name	Nexplanon®
Dosage Form	68 mg extended-release subdermal implant
Manufacturer	Organon Canada Inc.
<b>Submission Type</b>	<b>New Submission</b>
Use Reviewed	For the prevention of pregnancy for up to three years
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes, CDR recommended: <b>to Reimburse with clinical criteria and/or conditions</b> . Visit the CDR website for more details: <a href="https://www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/cdr/complete/SR0648%20Nexplanon%20-%20CDEC%20Final%20Recommendation%20October%202022%2C%202020_for%20posting.pdf">https://www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/cdr/complete/SR0648%20Nexplanon%20-%20CDEC%20Final%20Recommendation%20October%202022%2C%202020_for%20posting.pdf</a>
Provincial Review	DBC now screens drug submissions under review by the CDR 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 CDEC recommendation and an internal review only. The DBC screened etonogestrel extended-release subdermal implant at their January 2020 meeting. The DBC advised that, because etonogestrel extended-release subdermal implant is similar to some of the other long-acting drugs used for the prevention of pregnancy, the Ministry may accept the CDEC's recommendation for etonogestrel extended-release subdermal implant.
<b>Drug Coverage Decision</b>	<b>Regular Benefit</b>
Date	December 7, 2021

Reasons	<p><b>Drug coverage decision is consistent with the CDEC recommendation.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Based on data from two studies, the drug was effective in preventing pregnancies in healthy women with regular menstrual cycles.</li> <li>The Ministry participated in the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance negotiations with the manufacturer which were able to address the concerns identified by the CDEC with respect to the cost-effectiveness and value for money.</li> </ul>
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 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.