

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	filgrastim
Brand Name	Grastofil®
Dosage Forms	300 mcg/0.5 mL and 480 mcg/0.8mL pre-filled syringes
Manufacturer	Apotex Inc.
Submission Type	Modification of Criteria
Use Reviewed	For the primary prophylaxis of febrile neutropenia in patients receiving certain types of chemotherapy.
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/SE0446_cdr_complete_Grastofil_March-22-16_e.pdf
Drug Benefit Council (DBC)	The DBC met on April 4, 2016. The DBC considered various inputs including: the final review for Grastofil completed by the Common Drug Review (CDR) on March 18, 2016, which included clinical and pharmacoeconomic evidence review material and the recommendation from the Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC). The DBC also considered CDR Patient Group Input Submissions; Clinical Practice Reviews from two specialists; a Budget Impact Assessment; the 2015 BC Cancer Agency (BCCA) Guidelines for the treatment of febrile neutropenia; a 2010 update of the European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC) guidelines for the use of granulocyte colony stimulating factor (G-CSF) to reduce the incidence of chemotherapy-induced febrile neutropenia; and a 2015 Guideline Update on the Recommendations for the Use of WBC Growth Factors from the American Society of Clinical Oncology Clinical Practice. No Patient Input Questionnaire responses were received from patients, caregivers or Patient Groups.
Drug Coverage Decision	Limited Coverage Benefit. Access the modified filgrastim criteria from www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarespecialauthority
Date	October 16, 2018
Reasons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At their April 4, 2016 meeting, the DBC recommended that Grastofil be listed for primary prophylaxis of febrile neutropenia in cancer patients with regimens where the risk of febrile neutropenia is equal to or greater than 20%. The DBC's recommendation was based both on indirect evidence and current clinical practice guidelines. Grastofil was listed as an eligible Limited Coverage benefit on January 31, 2017. At that time, the Ministry of Health was unable to expand PharmaCare coverage of filgrastim to include primary prophylaxis due to budgetary constraints. As of October 16, 2018, the Ministry has expand coverage for filgrastim to include coverage for the primary prophylaxis of febrile neutropenia in cancer patients receiving potentially curative myelosuppressive chemotherapy regimens where the risk of febrile neutropenia is ≥

	20%.
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.