

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	Nivestym™
Dosage Form(s)	Single-use prefilled syringe: 300 mcg/0.5 mL and 480 mcg/0.8mL Vial: 300 mcg/mL and 480 mcg/1.6 mL
Manufacturer	Pfizer
Submission Type	New Submission
Use Reviewed	Prevention/treatment of neutropenia
Common Drug Review (CDR)	As of June 1, 2019, the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH) no longer conducts reviews of biosimilars as it became apparent that their existing Common Drug Review (CDR) process may delay access to new biosimilar treatments, and because it allows CADTH to deploy its limited resources to other drug reviews.
Provincial Review	PharmaCare no longer requires the Drug Benefit Council (DBC) to review biosimilars as we believe Health Canada's review of biosimilars is thorough and without compromise to efficacy and patient safety. Therefore Nivesytm was reviewed internally by PharmaCare.
Drug Coverage Decision	Limited Coverage Benefit Access the Nivesytm criteria from www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarespecialauthority
Date	March 22, 2022
Reason(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on the available evidence, efficacy and safety of Nivestym appears similar to Neupogen for the treatment of neutropenia. Nivestym is less expensive than Neupogen based on manufacturer's list prices. The pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA) and Business Management successfully completed price negotiations with the manufacturer for this product.

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.