



Drug Coverage Decision for BC PharmaCare

About PharmaCare

BC PharmaCare is a publicly funded drug plan that helps B.C. residents pay for most prescription drugs and pharmacy services, and some medical devices and supplies.

Details of Drug Reviewed

Drug	foslevodopa-foscarbidopa
Brand name	Vyalev®
Dosage form(s)	Foslevodopa 240 mg/mL and foscarbidopa 12 mg/mL solution for subcutaneous infusion, in a 10 mL vial.
Manufacturer	AbbVie Corporation.
Submission type	New Submission
Indication reviewed	For the treatment of advanced Parkinson’s Disease (aPD)
Canada’s Drug Agency (CDA-AMC) Clinical Reimbursement Reviews (CRR)	CDA-AMC recommended: to Reimburse with clinical criteria and/or conditions. Visit the CRR website for more https://www.cadth.ca/reimbursement-review-reports
Drug Benefit Council (DBC)	The DBC now screens drug submissions under review by CRR 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 Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC) recommendation and an internal review only. The DBC screened foslevodopa-foscarbidopa on March 6, 2023. Since foslevodopa-foscarbidopa is similar to levodopa-carbidopa intestinal gel (LCIG) [Duodopa®] that was previously reviewed by DBC for the the treatment aPD the Ministry may accept the CDEC’s recommendation for foselevodopa-foscarbidopa.
Drug Coverage Decision	Limited Coverage benefit https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/practitioner-professional-resources/pharmacare/programs/special-authority

Date	August 20, 2024
Reason(s)	<p>Drug coverage decision is consistent with the CDEC recommendation that foslevodopa-foscarbidopa be reimbursed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence from a clinical trial demonstrated that treatment with foslevodopa-foscarbidopa resulted in statistically significant and clinically meaningful improvements in change in average daily normalized “On” time without troublesome dyskinesia and average daily normalized “Off” time from baseline at week 12 compared with oral levodopa/carbidopa therapy for levodopa-responsive patients with aPD who had motor fluctuations inadequately controlled by oral therapy. • At the manufacturer’s submitted price for foslevodopa-foscarbidopa and publicly listed price for LCIG (Duodopa®), the cost for foslevodopa-foscarbidopa was similar compared to LCIG when accounting for drug costs only. • 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 unknown cost-effectiveness and value for money.
Other Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vyalev will be a Limited Coverage benefit for the treatment of motor fluctuations in patients with Parkinson’s Disease (PD) who are not adequately controlled on optimized oral therapies (aPD) and who are not candidates for deep brain stimulation (DBS), with similar reimbursement criteria to Duodopa. • In a 2018 report “Deep brain stimulation or Duodopa for advanced Parkinson’s disease in British Columbia”, published by BC Health Technology Review Office, DBS was advantageous to the treatment with Duodopa. However, patients in British Columbia still experience long wait times to access DBS procedure and in selected patients Duodopa could be used in the meantime. • Coverage of Duodopa and Vyalev may be reassessed once DBS becomes more accessible.

The drug review process in B.C.

A manufacturer submits a request to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry).

An independent group called the [Drug Benefit Council \(DBC\)](#) gives advice to the Ministry by considering:

- whether the drug is safe and effective
- advice from a national group called [Canada's Drug and Health Technology Agency \(CADTH\)](#)
- what the drug costs and whether funding it provides good value to the province
- ethical considerations of covering and not covering the drug
- input from physicians, patients, caregivers, patient groups and drug submission sponsors

The Ministry makes a BC PharmaCare coverage decision by taking into account:

- existing BC PharmaCare policies, programs and resources
- the evidence-informed advice of the DBC
- drugs already covered by BC PharmaCare that treat similar medical conditions
- the overall cost of covering the drug

Visit [BC PharmaCare](#) and [Drug reviews](#) 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.