

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	
Brand Name	FreeStyle® Libre 2 Flash Glucose Monitoring (FGM) system
Manufacturer	Abbott Diabetes Care
Submission Type	Resubmission
Use Reviewed	For glucose monitoring in patients with diabetes mellitus.
Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH) Reimbursement Reviews (CRR)	No, CRR did not review
Provincial Review	The continuous glucose monitors (CGMs) and FGMs were reviewed internally and various inputs were considered, including: the recommendations of BC's Health Technology Assessment Committee (HTAC); the findings of the Health Technology Assessment systematic review and network meta-analyses; implementation advice from the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH); Patient Input Questionnaire responses from 1,837 patients, 541 caregivers and 12 patient groups; budget impact assessments; and stakeholder feedback from endocrinologists, diabetes education centers, Nursing Support Services from BC Children's Hospital, and patient advocacy groups.
Drug Coverage Decision	Limited Coverage Benefit. Access the FreeStyle Libre 2 FGM criteria from www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarespecialauthority

Date	August 1, 2023
Reasons	<p>Drug coverage decision is consistent with the HTAC recommendation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC's HTAC concluded that glucose monitoring technologies, including CGMs, FGMs, and hybrid closed loop insulin delivery systems, provide no additional clinical benefits compared to fingerprick blood glucose tests, but provide non-clinical benefits. • The HTAC recommended that funding be provided based on functional, not clinical, need and that the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) should consult stakeholders to define eligible populations. • Stakeholder input and patient input suggested that FGMs and CGMs were a major advancement in technology compared to fingerprick blood glucose tests, and, when used correctly, they have the potential to improve the health of patients with diabetes. • In 2021, the Ministry participated in negotiations with the manufacturers of the various CGMs and FGMs; at that time, the FreeStyle Libre 2 FGM system was unable to meet the pricing requirements required to address the concerns identified by the HTAC with respect to the cost-effectiveness and value for money. • In 2023, the FreeStyle Libre 2 FGM system was resubmitted to the Ministry with pricing which was able to address the concerns identified by the HTAC with respect to the cost-effectiveness and value for money.
Other Information	Information regarding the HTAC's recommendations and the Health Technology Assessment systematic review and network meta-analyses are available online .

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 [Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health \(CADTH\) Reimbursement Reviews\(CRR\)](#)
- 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.