

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	icatibant
Brand Name	Firazyr®
Dosage Form	10 mg/mL solution for subcutaneous (SC) injection pre-filled syringe
Manufacturer	Shire Human Genetic Therapies (Canada) Inc.
Submission Type	New Submission
Use Reviewed	For the treatment of acute attacks of hereditary angioedema (HAE) in adults with c1-esterase inhibitor deficiency.
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/cdr_complete_SR0375_Firazyr_Dec-23-14.pdf
Drug Benefit Council (DBC)	DBC met on January 12, 2015. The DBC considered various inputs including: general inputs (e.g. the final review completed by the CDR, which included clinical and pharmacoeconomic evidence review material and the recommendation from the Canadian Drug Expert Committee [CDEC]), input from two specialists, and Patient Input Questionnaire responses from 10 patients, 3 Caregivers, 1 Patient Group and a budget impact assessment.
Drug Coverage Decision	Limited Coverage Benefit. Access the icatibant criteria from www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarespecialauthority
Date	February 6, 2018
Reasons	<p>Drug coverage decision is consistent with the DBC recommendation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The drug demonstrated some advantage over placebo for the treatment of non-laryngeal acute HAE attacks with respect to efficacy (e.g., time to onset of symptom relief, time to symptom improvement and time to almost complete symptom relief). • There are no trials that directly compare the drug with plasma-derived c1-esterase inhibitor (Berinert®) for acute HAE attacks. • The Ministry participated in the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance negotiations with Shire Human Genetic Therapies (Canada) Inc., which were able to address the concerns identified by the CDEC and DBC with respect to the cost-effectiveness and value for money.
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.