

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	Insulin aspart
Brand Name	Kirsty®
Dosage Form(s)	100 units/mL in a 3 mL pre-filled syringe
Manufacturer	BGP Pharma ULC
Submission Type	Biosimilars
Use Reviewed	For treatment of patients with diabetes mellitus
Common Drug Review (CDR)	As of June 1, 2019, the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH) no longer reviews biosimilars as their existing process may delay access to these products, and to deploy its limited resources to reviews of other drugs.
Provincial Review	PharmaCare also no longer asks the Drug Benefit Council (DBC) to review biosimilars, as Health Canada's biosimilar reviews are thorough and do not compromise efficacy and patient safety; therefore, PharmaCare reviewed Kirsty internally.
Drug Coverage Decision	Regular Benefit
Date	January 24, 2023
Reasons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health Canada's review concluded that the insulin aspart biosimilar (Kirsty) was similar to and had no clinically meaningful differences from the biologic reference drug, NovoRapid®, with respect to efficacy, safety, pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic. Results from a CADTH Rapid Response evaluating switching from the biologic reference drug to biosimilars suggested that switching from NovoRapid to insulin aspart biosimilars can be performed safely with no impact on drug efficacy and clinical response.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on the submitted product price, the insulin aspart biosimilars cost significantly less than the biologic reference drug, NovoRapid. • BC participated in the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA) negotiations that concluded an agreement with the drug manufacturer for Kirsty.
Other Information	<ul style="list-style-type: 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.