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

Generic	Insulin glargine
Originator	Lantus®
Biosimilar	Basaglar™
Manufacturer	Eli Lilly Canada Inc.
Submission Type	Biosimilars Initiative
Indications Affected	Diabetes (Type 1 and 2)
Common Drug Review (CDR)	CDR reviewed Basaglar. For more information please see https://www.cadth.ca/about-cadth/what-we-do/products-services/cdr/reports
Provincial Review	PharmaCare is introducing a Biosimilars Initiative. In Phase 1, this will change coverage for PharmaCare-covered patients who use insulin glargine (Lantus). Beginning May 22, 2019, patients who use Lantus for diabetes, and who receive PharmaCare coverage under any plan except Plan W (First Nations Health Benefits), must switch to using the Basaglar™ brand of insulin glargine in order to receive continued PharmaCare coverage. During the switch period between May 27, 2019 and November 25, 2019, coverage will be provided for all biologic and biosimilar brands, in order to provide time for patient identification, communication, discussion with prescribers, and switching. Coverage of Lantus will end on November 26, 2019 for affected patients.
Drug Coverage Decision	**Limited Coverage Benefit).** **Access the insulin glargine criteria from www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarespecialauthority**
Date	May 27, 2019
Reason(s)	• To enable expansion of the PharmaCare formulary and B.C. health services, PharmaCare develops evidence-informed strategies to better optimize how our public resources are used. • Biologic drugs represent a huge portion of the annual PharmaCare budget, and biosimilars represent a correspondingly large, but unrealized, opportunity to find value that can be applied to new treatments and services. • PharmaCare is always reviewing new drugs, new indications, and existing coverage and criteria; the provincial formulary must evolve and adapt to the current market, clinical requirements, best practices, and the needs of B.C. residents and practitioners. • The safety, efficacy, immunogenicity, and therapeutic similarity of biosimilars is evidenced by a large body of clinical evidence, extensive post-market pharmacovigilance, as well as the results of biosimilar programs in other jurisdictions. • Additional reading and study summaries are available online at www.gov.bc.ca/biosimilars/ • The Ministry will be carefully monitoring drug utilization, patient outcomes, and the response from patients and healthcare practitioners during and after the biosimilar initiative in B.C.

Other Information	Affected patients must make an appointment with their prescriber to discuss switching to a biosimilar version of their medication and get a new prescription by November 20, 2019 in order to maintain their PharmaCare coverage.

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.