

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	levofloxacin
Brand Name	Quinsair™
Dosage Form(s)	240mg/2.4 ml solution for inhalation
Manufacturer	Raptor Pharmaceuticals
Submission Type	New Submission
Use Reviewed	Quinsair™ is indicated for the management of cystic fibrosis (CF) in patients aged 18 years or older with chronic pulmonary Pseudomonas aeruginosa (P. aeruginosa) infections.
Common Drug Review (CDR)	If CDR reviewed, include: Yes, CDR recommended: to Reimburse with clinical criteria and/or conditions. Visit the CDR website for more details: www.cadth.ca/node/88649 .
Drug Benefit Council (DBC)	DBC now screens drug submissions under review by the CDR 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 CDEC recommendation and an internal review only. The DBC screened Quinsair™ on July 4, 2016. The DBC advised that because levofloxacin is similar to some of the other drugs used for the treatment of CF in patients aged 18 years or older with chronic P.aeruginosa infections, the Ministry may accept the CDEC's recommendation for levofloxacin.
Drug Coverage Decision	Non-Benefit
Date	October 16, 2018
Reason(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on the available clinical data, levofloxacin is similar to tobramycin in terms of efficacy and safety and superior to placebo in terms of efficacy. Clinical trials are not available comparing levofloxacin to any other therapy for the treatment of CF in patients with chronic P.aeruginosa infections. British Columbia opted out of the pan-Canadian Pricing Alliance as not all conditions of CDEC recommendation were met.
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.