

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	Mesalazine
Brand Name	Mezera™
Dosage Forms	1 g/actuation foam enema, 1 g suppository
Manufacturer	Avir Pharma
Submission Type	Line Extension
Use Reviewed	Foam enema: treatment of mildly active ulcerative colitis of the sigmoid colon and rectum. Suppository: treatment of acute mild to moderate ulcerative proctitis.
Common Drug Review (CDR)	No, CDR did not review.
Provincial Review	The Drug Benefit Council (the DBC) does not review drugs submitted as Line Extensions.
Drug Coverage Decision	Non-Benefit
Date	February 26, 2019
Reasons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mezera foam enema and suppository did not demonstrate advantages over existing mesalazine formulations with respect to efficacy, safety and quality of life. Based on existing PharmaCare coverage of mesalazine comparators and clinician feedback, Mezera was assessed to have a minimal role with regard to fulfilling current unmet clinical needs in British Columbia. Based on economic considerations and the submitted product price, Mezera foam enema is more costly than available alternatives.
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.