

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	naltrexone hydrochloride and bupropion hydrochloride
Brand Name	Contrave®
Dosage Form(s)	8 mg / 90 mg
Manufacturer	Bausch Health, Canada Inc.
Submission Type	Resubmission
Use Reviewed	Contrave is used for chronic weight management in obese adults with a body mass index (BMI) of 30 kg/m ² or greater or overweight adults with a BMI of 27 kg/m ² or greater who have at least one weight-related condition
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes, CDR recommended: Do Not Reimburse . Visit the CDR website for more details: www.cadth.ca/node/88649 .
Provincial Review	Contrave was reviewed internally and was not reviewed by the Drug Benefit Council (DBC) because the CDR recommended not to list for chronic weight management.
Drug Coverage Decision	Non-Benefit
Date	May 25, 2021
Reason(s)	Drug coverage decision is consistent with the CDEC recommendation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In adults who were obese or overweight with at least one weight-related comorbidity, those chosen to receive Contrave experienced an average of 3% to 5% reduction in body weight after 28 or 56 weeks compared with placebo. The relevance of a 3 to 5% weight loss over a short time on obesity, a chronic long-term condition, an on clinical conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, other cardiovascular disease, or other conditions such as sleep apnea remains uncertain.

Other Information

- Given the identified concerns with the trial outcomes, exclusion of relevant comparators and uncertainty regarding the validity of the key economic models the drug's cost-effectiveness is unknown in Canada

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.