

# 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

<b>Drug</b>	<b>ofatumumab</b>
Brand Name	<b>Kesimpta™</b>
Dosage Form(s)	20mg/0.4 mL pre-filled pen
Manufacturer	Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc.
<b>Submission Type</b>	<b>New Submission</b>
Use Reviewed	For the treatment of relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis (RRMS).
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes, CDR recommended: <b>to Reimburse with clinical criteria and/or conditions.</b> Visit the CDR website for more details: <a href="http://www.cadth.ca/node/88649">www.cadth.ca/node/88649</a> .
Provincial Review	The 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 Kesimpta on September 14, 2020. The DBC advised that because Kesimpta is similar to some of the other drugs used for the treatment of RRMS, the Ministry may accept the CDEC's recommendation for Kesimpta.
<b>Drug Coverage Decision</b>	<b>Non-Benefit</b>
Date	June 27, 2022
Reason(s)	<b>Drug coverage decision is consistent with the CDEC recommendation</b> •

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The mechanism of action for ofatumumab (anti-CD20) is highly similar to that of ocrelizumab and rituximab. The later of which is now available as a biosimilar.</li> <li>• In the clinical trials ASCLEPIOS I and ASCLEPIOS II, ofatumumab demonstrated some advantage over teriflunomide with respect to efficacy.</li> <li>• Indirect comparisons showed that ofatumumab is likely to be as effective as the other monoclonal antibody disease modifying therapies (i.e., alemtuzumab, natalizumab, cladribine, and ocrelizumab) in annualized relapse rates.</li> <li>• At the submitted price ofatumumab was not considered cost-effective for this indication. The Ministry participated in the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance negotiations with the manufacturer which were not able to address BC's concerns with respect to cost-effectiveness and value for money.</li> </ul>
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 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.