

Drug Coverage Decision for BC PharmaCare

About PharmaCare

BC PharmaCare is a publicly funded drug plan that helps B.C. residents pay for most prescription drugs and pharmacy services, and some medical devices and supplies.

Details of Drug Reviewed

Drug	olezarsen
Brand name	Tryngolza™
Dosage form(s)	80 mg/0.8 mL solution for subcutaneous use
Manufacturer	Celystra Pharma Inc.
Submission type	New Submission
Indication reviewed	As an adjunct to diet for the treatment of adults with familial chylomicronemia syndrome (FCS) to reduce triglyceride (TG) levels.
Canada's Drug Agency (CDA-AMC) Reimbursement Reviews (RR)	The Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC) recommended: to Reimburse with clinical criteria and/or conditions . Visit the CDA-AMC website for more details .
Ministry of Health (the Ministry) Review	The Ministry reviewed clinical and pharmacoeconomic combined reports prepared by the CDA-AMC's RR process, including clinical and pharmacoeconomic evidence review material and the recommendations of the CDEC. The Ministry also considered patient input provided to CDEC and a budget impact assessment. The Ministry received no Your Voice patient input questionnaire responses from a patient group.
Drug Coverage Decision	Exceptional Coverage through the Expensive Drugs for Rare Diseases (EDRD) Process
Date	August 25, 2026
Reason(s)	Drug coverage decision is consistent with the CDEC recommendation.

- FCS is a rare, serious condition in which the body's metabolism does not break down fats correctly due to a deficiency in lipoprotein lipase (LPL) function leading to severely elevated levels of TG in the blood.
- Severely elevated levels of TG puts patients at high risk of acute pancreatitis events that may cause pain, hospitalization, and long term complications including chronic pain and diabetes.
- Patients with FCS must adhere to a strict low-fat diet typically consisting of less than 20 g of fat per day.
- Evidence from a clinical trial showed that olezarsen, compared to placebo, given for 12 months improved TG levels and may reduce the rate of acute pancreatitis in adult patients with FCS.
- While the evidence is uncertain due to the small sample size and rarity of FCS and acute pancreatitis, there are no other indicated therapies currently funded for the treatment of FCS.
- Results regarding improvement in health-related quality of life were inconclusive.
- Olezarsen was shown to be well-tolerated with fewer side effects than placebo and few drug discontinuations.
- The cost-effectiveness of olezarsen is uncertain due to a lack of long term data and uncertainty in the impact of treatment on the frequency and mortality risk of acute pancreatitis.
- BC participated in the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA) negotiations with the manufacturer and the pCPA was able to address some of the concerns identified by the CDA-AMC with respect to cost-effectiveness.

The drug review process in B.C.

A manufacturer submits a request to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry).

An independent national organization called Canada's Drug Agency (CDA-AMC) provides evidence-based recommendations to public drug plans across Canada through its reimbursement review process. As part of the CDA-AMC's Reimbursement Review process, the Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC) makes reimbursement recommendations for non-oncology pharmaceuticals to the participating federal, provincial, and territorial publicly funded drug plans. In developing its recommendations, the CDEC considers:

- whether the drug is safe and effective
- what the drug costs and whether funding it provides good value
- ethical considerations of covering or not covering the drug
- input from physicians, patients, caregivers, patient groups and drug submission sponsors

The Ministry makes a BC PharmaCare coverage decision by considering:

- existing BC PharmaCare policies, programs and resources
- the evidence-informed advice of the CDA-AMC
- the recommendations and reimbursement conditions of the CDEC
- if a Ministry Initiated review, the advice of an independent expert group called the Drug Benefit Council (DBC)
- BC-specific patient input collected through the Your Voice website
- drugs already covered by BC PharmaCare that treat similar medical conditions
- the overall cost of covering the drug
- the outcomes of pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA) negotiations with manufacturers

Visit [BC PharmaCare](#) and [Drug reviews](#) for more information.

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It does not take the place of advice from a physician or other qualified health care provider.