

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	omalizumab
Brand Name	Xolair®
Dosage Form(s)	150 mg vial
Manufacturer	Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc.
Submission Type	New Indication
Use Reviewed	Chronic idiopathic urticarial (CIU)
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes, CDR recommended: to Reimburse with clinical criteria and/or conditions . Visit the CDR website for more details: www.cadth.ca/about-cadth/what-we-do/products-services/cdr/reports
Drug Benefit Council (DBC)	DBC met on June 1, 2015. DBC considered various inputs including: final review completed by the CDR, which included clinical and pharmacoeconomic evidence review material and the recommendation from the Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC). The DBC also considered Clinical Practice Reviews from two specialists, as well as a Budget Impact Assessment (BIA) and Patient Input Questionnaire responses from three patients.
Drug Coverage Decision	Non-Benefit
Date	November 29, 2016
Reason(s)	Drug coverage decision is consistent with the DBC recommendation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Omalizumab was similar to or demonstrated some advantage over placebo with respect to efficacy, safety and/or quality of life. However, there are no studies directly comparing omalizumab against less costly oral drugs (e.g., montelukast or cyclosporine). • Based on economic considerations and the submitted product price, the drug was not cost-effective and/or did not offer optimal value for money. • The Ministry initially participated in negotiations with the manufacturer through the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA), but subsequently withdrew as the terms of the agreement did not meet the needs of the Ministry.
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.