



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	pasireotide
Brand name	Signifor® LAR®
Dosage forms	40 mg and 60 mg vial
Manufacturer	Recordati Rare Diseases Canada Inc.
Submission type	New Submission
Indication reviewed	For the treatment of adult patients with acromegaly for whom surgery is not an option or has not been curative and who are inadequately controlled on treatment with another somatostatin analogue (SSA).
Canada's Drug Agency (CDA-AMC) Clinical Reimbursement Reviews (CRR)	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 CRR, including clinical and pharmacoeconomic evidence review material and the recommendations of the Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC). The Ministry also considered patient input provided to CDEC and a budget impact assessment. - Pasireotide was not reviewed by the Drug Benefit Council (DBC) because, after consultation with the Ministry, the DBC recommended that it does not need to complete a detailed review as other drugs for acromegaly (e.g., lanreotide) are covered by BC Cancer, with most cases of acromegaly being the consequence of growth hormone secreting pituitary adenomas.

Drug Coverage Decision	Non-benefit.
Date	September 23, 2026
Reasons	Drug coverage decision is consistent with the CDEC recommendation that Signifor LAR be reimbursed for the treatment of acromegaly, if certain conditions are met including a price reduction. • The CDA-AMC's CRR reviewed two Phase III randomized controlled trials (RCTs) and determined that Signifor LAR likely improves the proportion of patients who achieve normalization of insulin-like growth factor-1 (IGF-1) when compared to first generation SSAs. • With respect to whether Signifor LAR is able to meet patients' unmet needs, although there were signs of improvement on one health-related quality of life (HRQoL) measure, the clinical significance of these improvements was unclear, and it was uncertain whether treatment with Signifor LAR improves symptoms. • The CDA-AMC's CRR assessment of the health economic evidence found a lack of evidence to justify a greater cost for Signifor LAR compared with first generation SSAs. • The pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA) was involved in negotiations with the manufacturer for this product. However, negotiations concluded without an agreement on January 19, 2026.

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 Clinical 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.