

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	Pegfilgrastim
Brand Name	Lapelga™
Dosage Form(s)	6 mg/0.6 mL Prefilled Syringe
Manufacturer	ApoBiologix Canada
Submission Type	New Submission
Use Reviewed	Lapelga was reviewed for the following indication: to decrease the incidence of infection, as manifested by febrile neutropenia, in patients with non-myeloid malignancies receiving myelosuppressive anti-neoplastic drugs.
Common Drug Review (CDR)	CDR reviewed Lapelga as a biosimilar submission.
Provincial Review	Biosimilars are not reviewed by the Drug Benefit Council (DBC) and the Ministry's drug coverage decision was based on an internal review.
Drug Coverage Decision	Non-Benefit
Date	July 9, 2019
Reason(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Originator drug pegfilgrastim (Neulasta) is not an eligible PharmaCare benefit due to cost compared to filgrastim as per review completed in 2010. • Lapelga is a biosimilar of Neulasta™. Based on the Health Canada review, Lapelga is similar to Neulasta with respect to efficacy, safety, pharmacokinetics and immunogenicity. • As Lapelga is more costly than a biosimilar filgrastim (Grastofil), Lapelga is not an eligible PharmaCare benefit.
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.