**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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Pegfilgrastim</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brand Name</td>
<td>Lapelga™</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dosage Form(s)</td>
<td>6 mg/0.6 mL Prefilled Syringe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturer</td>
<td>ApoBiologix Canada</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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)**

- 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.