

# 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

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Drug</b>                   | <b>pegfilgrastim</b>   |
| Brand Name                    | Ziextenzo®   |
| Dosage Form(s)                | 6 mg/0.6 mL (10mg/mL) Prefilled Syringe  |
| Manufacturer                  | Sandoz Canada Inc.   |
| <b>Submission Type</b>        | <b>New Submission</b>  |
| Use Reviewed                  | 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)      | As of June 1, 2019, the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH) no longer conducts reviews of biosimilars as it became apparent that their existing Common Drug Review (CDR) process may delay access to new biosimilar treatments, and because it allows CADTH to deploy its limited resources to other drug reviews. For similar reasons, PharmaCare no longer requires the Drug Benefit Council (DBC) to review biosimilars as we believe Health Canada's review of biosimilars is thorough and without compromise to efficacy and patient safety. Therefore Ziextenzo® was reviewed internally by PharmaCare. |
| 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.  |
| <b>Drug Coverage Decision</b> | <b>Non-Benefit</b>   |
| Date                          | May 10, 2022   |

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Reason(s)         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ziextenzo is a biosimilar of pegfilgrastim (Neulasta®). Based on the Health Canada review, Ziextenzo is similar to Neulasta with respect to efficacy, safety, pharmacokinetics and immunogenicity.</li> <li>• The review of Neulasta was completed in 2010, Neulasta is not an eligible PharmaCare benefit due to an increased cost compared to filgrastim; it also provides no additional clinical benefit of significance compared to filgrastim.</li> <li>• Ziextenzo is more costly than the biosimilar filgrastim (Grastofil™) and biosimilar filgrastim (Nivestym™), even though filgrastim dosing is weight based and has a higher frequency of delivery.</li> </ul> |
| 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 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.