

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	peginterferon beta-1a
Brand Name	Plegridy™
Dosage Form(s)	63 µg/0.5 ml 94 µg/0.5 ml 125 µg/0.5 ml Starter pack (63 µg/0.5 ml, 94 µg/0.5 ml)
Manufacturer	Biogen Canada Inc.
Submission Type	New Submission
Use Reviewed	Plegridy™ is used to treat relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis.
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes, CDR recommended: to List with criteria Visit the CDR website for more details: www.cadth.ca/node/88649 .
Drug Benefit Council (DBC)	The DBC screened Plegridy™ on August 31, 2015. The DBC advised that because peginterferon beta-1a is similar to some of the other drugs used for the treatment of relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis (RRMS), the Ministry may accept the CDEC's recommendation for peginterferon beta-1a.
Drug Coverage Decision	Non-Benefit
Date	August 4, 2016
Reason(s)	<p>The Ministry of Health (Ministry) reviewed clinical evidence and pharmacoeconomic reports prepared by the CDR, and the Final CDEC Recommendation as well as patient input from seven patients and one patient group. Plegridy™ received a "list with criteria" recommendation from the CDR, with the condition that the price for this drug not exceed the drug plan cost of any of the first-line injectable drugs for the treatment of relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on the evidence reviewed, Plegridy™ does not provide additional clinical benefit compared to other peginterferon medications used for the treatment of RRMS and it does not meet unmet clinical need. Based on economic considerations and the submitted product price, Plegridy™ does not offer value for money as it is more expensive than some of the available alternatives. The Ministry decided not to participate in discussions with the manufacturer for Plegridy™ through the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA) as the transparent product price continues to be higher than cost of some of the available alternatives.
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:

- advice from a national group called the Common Drug Review
- whether the drug is safe and effective
- whether it is a good value for the people of B.C.
- the ethics of covering or not covering the drug
- input from physicians, patients, caregivers, patient groups and drug submission sponsors

The Ministry makes a decision based on many factors, including:

- advice from the DBC
- drugs used to treat similar medical conditions that B.C. PharmaCare already covers
- the overall cost of covering the drug

Visit the B.C. [Drug Review Process](#) and [PharmaCare](#) program 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.