

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	rifaximin
Brand Name	Zaxine [®]
Dosage Form(s)	550 mg oral tablet
Manufacturer	Lupin Pharma Canada Inc.
Submission Type	New Submission
Use Reviewed	Overt hepatic encephalopathy (HE)
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes, CDR recommended: to Reimburse with clinical criteria and/or conditions . Visit the CDR website for more details: www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/cdr/complete/cdr_complete_SR0388_Zaxine-Apr-20-15.pdf
Drug Benefit Council (DBC)	DBC met on May 4, 2015. DBC considered various inputs including: final review completed by the CDR, which included clinical and pharmacoeconomic evidence review material and the recommendation from the Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC). The DBC also considered Patient Input Questionnaire responses from one caregiver and two Patient Groups, Clinical Practice Reviews from two specialists, as well as a Budget Impact Assessment.
Drug Coverage Decision	Limited Coverage Benefit. Access the rifaximin criteria from www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarespecialauthority
Date	February 6, 2018
Reason(s)	<p>Drug coverage decision is consistent with the CDEC and DBC recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The drug was similar to or demonstrated some advantage over placebo with respect to efficacy and safety. However, treatment with rifaximin did not improve quality of life. • Based on economic considerations and a reduced product price submitted by the manufacturer during the CDEC embargo period, rifaximin plus lactulose versus lactulose alone was cost-effective. • The Ministry considered CDEC and DBC recommendations as well as the available treatment options for reducing the risk of overt HE recurrence (i.e. lactulose) and determined that rifaximin as add-on therapy to lactulose addresses unmet medical need for reducing the risk of overt HE recurrence in patients who have been hospitalized with overt HE episodes and are taking the maximum tolerated dose of lactulose.
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.