

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	Risperidone
Brand Name	Perseris®
Dosage Form(s)	90 mg and, 120 mg powder for extended-release injectable suspension
Manufacturer	HLS Therapeutics Inc.
Submission Type	New Submission
Use Reviewed	Perseris® is indicated for the treatment of schizophrenia in adults
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes, the CDR recommended: to Reimburse with clinical criteria and/or conditions. Visit the CDR website for more details: www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/DRR/2021/SR0671%20Perseris%20-%20Draft%20CADTH%20Recommendation%20August%2012,%202021_for%20posting.pdf
Provincial Review	The DBC now screens drug submissions under review by the CDR to determine whether or not a full DBC review is necessary, based on past DBC reviews, recommendations, and existing PharmaCare coverage. If a full DBC review is determined to not be required, the Ministry's drug coverage decision will be based on the CDEC recommendation and an internal review only. The DBC screened Perseris on March 01, 2021. The DBC advised that because Perseris is similar to some of the other drugs used for the treatment of schizophrenia in adults, the Ministry may accept the CDEC's recommendation for Perseris.
Drug Coverage Decision	Non-Benefit
Date	August 16, 2022

Reason(s)	<p>Drug coverage decision is consistent with the CDEC recommendation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CDEC reviewed one study in which Perseris improved symptoms of schizophrenia in adult patients compared with placebo, as measured by the Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale and Clinical Global Impressions-Severity. However, there were no studies that compared Perseris with other long-acting injectable (LAI) atypical antipsychotics. • Perseris study was only 8 weeks long which lead to uncertainty regarding the long-term efficacy and safety of risperidone ER. • Other LAI atypical antipsychotics including paliperidone (Invega Sustenna®) can be given monthly or every 3-months which is dosed the same or less frequently than Perseris. Risperidone (Risperdal Consta®) is dosed every 2 weeks and aripiprazole (Abilify Maintena™) is dosed every 4 weeks. • No evidence reviewed suggests Perseris is more effective than other similarly reimbursed therapies used to treat adults with schizophrenia. Therefore, Perseris should cost no more than the lowest cost alternative LAI atypical antipsychotic to ensure cost-effectiveness. • The pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA) and Business Management, were involved in negotiations with the manufacturer for this product. However, an agreement was not reached.
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.