Drug Coverage Decision for BC PharmaCare

About PharmaCare BC PharmaCare is a publicly funded drug plan that helps B.C. residents pay for most prescription drugs and pharmacy services, and some medical devices and supplies.

Details of Drug Reviewed

Drug	Ruxolitinib
Brand name	Opzelura®
Dosage form(s)	Cream 1.5% in 60 g and 100 g tubes
Manufacturer	Incyte Biosciences Canada Corporation
Submission type	**New Submission**
Indication reviewed	For the topical treatment of mild to moderate atopic dermatitis (AD) in adult and pediatric patients 12 years of age and older whose disease is not adequately controlled with conventional topical prescription therapies (topical corticosteroids (TCS), topical calcineurin inhibitors [TCI]) or when those therapies are not advisable.
Canada's Drug Agency (CDA-AMC) Clinical Reimbursement Reviews (CRR)	The Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC) recommended: **Do Not Reimburse**. Visit the CDA-AMC website for more details.
Ministry of Health (The Ministry) Review	The Ministry considered the final review completed by the CDA-AMC's CRR, which included clinical and pharmacoeconomic evidence review materials and the recommendation from CDEC. The Ministry also received 1 patient group input for AD from Your Voice.
Drug Coverage Decision	**Non-benefit**
Date	June 4, 2026
Reason(s)	The drug decision is consistent with the CDEC recoomendation not to reimburse Opzelura for the topical treatment of mild to moderate AD in adult and pediatric

	patients 12 years of age and older whose disease is not adequately controlled with conventional topical prescription therapies (TCS, TCI) or when those therapies are not advisable. • Evidence from 2 clinical trials showed that Opzelura treatment improved the severity of AD compared with placebo in adult and adolescent patients with mild to moderate AD. However, it is unclear if these patients were representative of patients whose disease is not adequately controlled with TCS and/or TCI, or for whom such treatment(s) are not advisable, which is the patient population expected to receive Opzelura in clinical practice. • At the submitted price, Opezelura was not considered cost-effective. • The pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance negotiations with the manufacturer did not conclude in agreement.

The drug review process in B.C.

A manufacturer submits a request to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry).

An independent national organization called Canada's Drug Agency (CDA-AMC) provides evidence-based recommendations to public drug plans across Canada through its reimbursement review process. As part of the CDA-AMC's Clinical Reimbursement Review process, the Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC) makes reimbursement recommendations for non-oncology pharmaceuticals to the participating federal, provincial, and territorial publicly funded drug plans. In developing its recommendations, the CDEC considers:

- whether the drug is safe and effective
- what the drug costs and whether funding it provides good value
- ethical considerations of covering or not covering the drug
- input from physicians, patients, caregivers, patient groups and drug submission sponsors

The Ministry makes a BC PharmaCare coverage decision by considering:

- existing BC PharmaCare policies, programs and resources
- the evidence-informed advice of the CDA-AMC
- the recommendations and reimbursement conditions of the CDEC
- if a Ministry Initiated review, the advice of an independent expert group called the Drug Benefit Council (DBC)
- BC-specific patient input collected through the Your Voice website
- drugs already covered by BC PharmaCare that treat similar medical conditions
- the overall cost of covering the drug
- the outcomes of pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA) negotiations with manufacturers

Visit BC PharmaCare and Drug reviews for more information.

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It does not take the place of advice from a physician or other qualified health care provider.