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)	1.5% topical cream
Manufacturer	Incyte Biosciences Canada Corporation
Submission type	**New Indication**
Indication reviewed	Topical treatment of nonsegmental vitiligo (NSV) in adult and pediatric patients 12 years of age and older
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 material and the recommendation from CDEC. The Ministry received no Patient Input Questionnaire responses from patients, caregivers, or Patient Groups.
Drug Coverage Decision	**Non-benefit**
Date	**October 21, 2026**
Reason(s)	Drug decision is consistent to the CDEC recommendation that Opzelura not be reimbursed by public drug plans for topical treatment of NSV in adult and pediatric patients 12 years of age and older.

	• Evidence from two clinical trial demonstrated that about 30% of patients using Opzelura saw significant improvement in facial repigmentation, compared to around 8 to 11% using a placebo. More patients also reported that their vitiligo became much less or no longer noticeable than those who received placebo. However, the impact of vitiligo on daily life varies, and the treatment did not lead to meaningful improvements in overall health-related quality of life (HRQoL). • Because the trials only compared Opzelura to a placebo, there is no data on how the drug performs against other commonly used treatments for NSV. • Vitiligo can seriously affect people's lives, especially those who have darker skin tones, who may face stigma, loss of identity, and low self-esteem. Most clinical trial participants had lighter skin tones, and treatment with Opzelura did not improve their HrQoL. These limitations make it difficult to know how effective Opzelura would be for those with darker skin tones, who would be most affected by vitiligo. • Based on economic considerations and the submitted product price, Opzelura was not cost effective and/or did not offer optimal value for money. • The pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA) did not pursue negotiations with the manufacturer for Opzelura because of the CDEC recommendation not to list.

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.