

# 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

<b>Drug</b>	<b>sarilumab</b>
Brand Name	Kevzara™
Dosage Forms	150 mg/1.14 mL, 200 mg/1.14 mL solution for subcutaneous injection
Manufacturer	Sanofi Genzyme
<b>Submission Type</b>	<b>New Submission</b>
Use Reviewed	Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA)
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes, CDR recommended: <b>to Reimburse with clinical criteria and/or conditions</b> . Visit the CDR website for more details: <a href="https://www.cadth.ca/about-cadth/what-we-do/products-services/cdr/reports">https://www.cadth.ca/about-cadth/what-we-do/products-services/cdr/reports</a>
Provincial Review	The Drug Benefit Council (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 is based on the Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC) recommendation and an internal review only. The DBC screened sarilumab for RA on December 5, 2016. The DBC advised that because sarilumab is similar to other biologics used for the treatment of RA, the Ministry may accept the CDEC's recommendation for sarilumab.
<b>Drug Coverage Decision</b>	<b>Non-Benefit</b>
Date	October 17, 2017
Reasons	<p><b>The CDEC recommended that the drug be listed for the treatment of RA with a condition that the drug plan cost of treatment with sarilumab should not exceed the drug plan cost of treatment with the least costly alternative biologic. Based on British Columbia's provincial review of sarilumab, the drug does not meet any unmet clinical need and the cost of sarilumab is greater than that of similar drugs for the treatment of RA, such as tocilizumab (Actemra®), etanercept (Brenzys™) and infliximab (Inflectra™); as such, PharmaCare decided that sarilumab should not be listed as an eligible PharmaCare benefit.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Based on clinical trials, treatment with sarilumab (with or without a background disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drug [DMARD]) demonstrated some advantage over placebo and adalimumab with respect to efficacy.</li> <li>Based on a network meta-analysis of clinical trials, sarilumab has similar efficacy to other biologics for patients not previously treated with a tumour necrosis factor (TNF)-alpha antagonist. The efficacy of sarilumab compared to other biologics is uncertain for patients who were previously treated with a TNF-alpha antagonist. The safety of sarilumab compared to other biologics is also uncertain.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Based on economic considerations and the submitted product price, the drug was not cost effective and did not offer value for money. Sarilumab is more costly than other biologics for the treatment of RA, such as tocilizumab, which has a similar mechanism of action and is an eligible PharmaCare Limited Coverage benefit for RA.</li> </ul>
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.