

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	sodium zirconium cyclosilicate
Brand Name	Lokelma™
Dosage Forms	5 g and 10 g sachets, powder for oral suspension
Manufacturer	AstraZeneca Canada Inc.
Submission Type	New Submission
Use Reviewed	For the treatment of hyperkalemia in adults.
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes, CDR recommended: Do Not Reimburse . Visit the CDR website for more details: https://www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/cdr/complete/SR0612%20Lokelma%20-%20CDEC%20Final%20Recommendation%20March%2027%2C%202020%20for%20posting.pdf
Provincial Review	Sodium zirconium cyclosilicate was reviewed internally and was not reviewed by the Drug Benefit Council (DBC) because the CDR recommended not to reimburse for the treatment of hyperkalemia in adults.
Drug Coverage Decision	Non-Benefit
Date	August 18, 2020
Reasons	<p>Drug coverage decision is consistent with the CDR recommendation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to insufficient evidence, it is unclear whether the drug demonstrates any advantages over other comparable treatments for hyperkalemia with respect to efficacy, safety and quality of life. • There was insufficient evidence as to whether the drug addressed any of the clinical needs of patients with hyperkalemia as compared to other treatments which are currently reimbursed for the treatment of hyperkalemia. • The cost-effectiveness of the drug could not be determined, due in part to the uncertainty in the clinical evidence.

Other Information	None
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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.