

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	somatrogon
Brand Name	Ngenla™
Dosage Forms	24 mg/1.2 mL (20 mg/mL) and 60 mg/1.2 mL (50 mg/mL) prefilled pens
Manufacturer	Pfizer Canada ULC
Submission Type	New Submission
Use Reviewed	For the long-term treatment of pediatric patients who have growth failure due to an inadequate secretion of endogenous growth hormone (known as, growth hormone deficiency).
Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH) Reimbursement Reviews (CRR)	Yes, the CRR recommended: to Reimburse with clinical criteria and/or conditions . Visit the CRR website for more details: https://www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/DRR/2022/SR0683%20Ngenla%20-%20CADTH%20Final%20Rec.pdf
Provincial Review	<p>The Drug Benefit Council (DBC) screens drug submissions under review by the CRR to determine whether 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 Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC) recommendation and an internal review only.</p> <p>The DBC screened somatrogon on July 5, 2021. The DBC advised that, because somatrogon is similar to some of the other drugs used for the treatment of pediatric patients who have growth failure due to an inadequate secretion of endogenous growth hormone, the Ministry may accept the CDEC's recommendation for somatrogon.</p>

Drug Coverage Decision	Non-Benefit
Date	May 2, 2023
Reasons	<p>Drug coverage decision is consistent with the CDEC recommendation that the drug should not exceed the drug program cost of treatment with the least costly somatropin reimbursed for the treatment of growth hormone deficiency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The drug did not demonstrate advantages over somatropin with respect to efficacy, safety and quality of life. • Based on economic considerations and the submitted product price, the drug was not cost effective..
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 [Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health \(CADTH\) Reimbursement Reviews\(CRR\)](#)
- 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.