



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	Tapentadol hydrochloride
Brand Name	Nucynta Extended-Release
Dosage Form(s)	50 mg, 100 mg, 150 mg, 200 mg and 250mg Tablets
Manufacturer	Paladin Labs Inc.
Submission Type	New Submission
Use Reviewed	For the management of pain severe enough to require daily, continuous, long-term opioid treatment, and: that is opioid responsive; and for which alternative treatment options are inadequate.
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes, CDR recommended: Do Not Reimburse . Visit the CDR website for more details: www.cadth.ca/node/88649
Provincial Review	Drug Benefit Council (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 will be based on the CDEC recommendation and an internal review only. Tapentadol hydrochloride was reviewed internally and was not reviewed by the DBC because the CDR recommended not to list for the management of pain severe enough to require daily, continuous, long-term opioid treatment, and: that is opioid responsive; and for which alternative treatment options are inadequate.
Drug Coverage Decision	Non-Benefit
Date	May 22, 2019
Reason(s)	Drug coverage decision is consistent with the CDEC recommendation. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The drug did not demonstrate advantages over comparators with respect to efficacy, safety and quality of life.• Based on economic considerations and the submitted product price, the drug did not offer optimal value for money.
Other Information	

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.