

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	telaprevir
Brand Name	Incivek®
Dosage Form(s)	375 mg tablet
Manufacturer	Vertex Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc.
Submission Review	Modification of Criteria
Use Reviewed	For the treatment of chronic hepatitis C virus infection in patients co-infected with HIV
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes, CDR recommended: List for the treatment of chronic hepatitis C genotype 1 infection in patients with compensated liver disease, in combination with peginterferon alpha (PegIFN α)/ribavirin (RBV). Visit the CDR website for more details: www.cadth.ca/node/88649 .
Drug Benefit Council (DBC)	Telaprevir request for modification of criteria was not reviewed by the DBC.
Drug Coverage Decision	Limited coverage benefit with modified criteria. Access the telaprevir criteria for more details: www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarespecialauthority.
Date	October 10, 2013
Reason(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the time when telaprevir was initially reviewed for coverage, evidence was not available for the treatment of patients co-infected with hepatitis C virus (HCV) and HIV. As a result, patients with HCV and HIV were not eligible for PharmaCare coverage. The Limited Coverage criteria indicated that telaprevir in this patient will be reviewed as new information becomes available. Based on the recent review by the CDR, the Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC) noted that the use of telaprevir in patients co-infected with HCV and HIV continues to be investigated and that telaprevir may provide clinical benefit in this patient population where there is an unmet therapeutic need. The treatment of patients co-infected with HCV and HIV should be under the direction of a physician experienced in managing such patients. As a result of this review, the coverage of telaprevir was expanded to patients co-infected with HCV and HIV as a Limited Coverage benefit.
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:

- advice from a national group called the Common Drug Review
- whether the drug is safe and effective
- whether it is a good value for the people of B.C.
- the ethics of covering or not covering the drug
- input from physicians, patients, caregivers, patient groups and drug submission sponsors

The Ministry makes a decision based on many factors, including:

- advice from the DBC
- drugs used to treat similar medical conditions that B.C. PharmaCare already covers
- the overall cost of covering the drug

Visit the B.C. [Drug Review Process](#) and [PharmaCare](#) program 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.