

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	tofacitinib
Brand Name	Xeljanz™
Dosage Form(s)	5 mg tablet
Manufacturer	Pfizer Canada Inc.
Submission Review	New Submission
Use Reviewed	Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA)
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes, CDR recommended: to Reimburse with clinical criteria and/or conditions. Visit the CDR website for more details: https://www.cadth.ca/about-cadth/what-we-do/products-services/cdr/reports
Drug Benefit Council (DBC)	DBC met on May 4, 2015. DBC considered various inputs including: final review completed by the CDR on April 17, 2015, which included clinical and pharmacoeconomic evidence review material and the recommendation from the Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC). The DBC also considered Patient Input Questionnaire responses from one patient and one Patient Group, Clinical Practice Reviews from two specialists, as well as a Budget Impact Assessment.
Drug Coverage Decision	Limited Coverage Benefit. Access the tofacitinib criteria from www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarespecialauthority
Date	January 31, 2017
Reason(s)	Drug coverage decision is consistent with the DBC recommendation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tofacitinib was superior to placebo with respect to efficacy and quality of life. Tofacitinib was not compared to other biologic disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs) used in the treatment of RA, but similar to biologic DMARDs, tofacitinib is associated with an increased risk of harm, including malignancies and serious infections. • Based on the submitted list price and an average patient weight of 70 kg, tofacitinib is less expensive than most other biologic DMARDs. The Ministry participated in the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance negotiations with the manufacturer of tofacitinib and the participating jurisdictions were able to reach an agreement with the manufacturer.
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.