

# 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

<b>Drug</b>	<b>Upadacitinib</b>
Brand Name	Rinvoq®
Dosage Form	15 mg extended-release oral tablets
Manufacturer	AbbVie
<b>Submission Type</b>	<b>New Submission</b>
Use Reviewed	For the treatment of adults with moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes, CDR recommended: <b>to Reimburse with clinical criteria and/or conditions</b> . Visit the CDR website for more details: <a href="http://www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/cdr/complete/SR0614%20Rinvoq%20-%20CDEC%20Final%20Recommendation%20February%206%2C%202020_for%20posting.pdf">www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/cdr/complete/SR0614%20Rinvoq%20-%20CDEC%20Final%20Recommendation%20February%206%2C%202020_for%20posting.pdf</a>
Drug Benefit Council (DBC)	The DBC now screens drug submissions under review by the CDR 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 of Health's (the Ministry) drug coverage decision will be based on the Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC) recommendation and an internal review only. The DBC screened upadacitinib in August 2019. The DBC advised that, because upadacitinib is similar to other drugs used for the treatment of moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis, the Ministry may accept the CDEC's recommendation.
<b>Drug Coverage Decision</b>	<b>Non-Benefit</b>
Date	November 29, 2022
Reason	<b>Drug coverage decision is consistent with the CDEC recommendation</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The drug did not have sufficient evidence to suggest advantages over other biologic- and targeted synthetic- disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs) currently reimbursed for the treatment of moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis with respect to efficacy, safety, and quality of life.</li> <li>• Based on economic considerations and the submitted product price, the drug was not cost effective and did not offer optimal value for money.</li> <li>• The CDEC recommended that the drug plan cost of upadacitinib not exceed the drug plan cost of the least costly biologic- or targeted synthetic-DMARD reimbursed for the treatment of moderate to severe rheumatoid arthritis.</li> <li>• The Pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA) was involved in negotiations with the manufacturer for this product; however, sufficient value was not achieved.</li> </ul>
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 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.