

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	vortioxetine
Brand Name	Trintellix™
Dosage Form(s)	5 mg, 10 mg, and 20 mg tablets
Manufacturer	Lundbeck Canada Inc.
Submission Type	Resubmission
Use Reviewed	Trintellix™ is indicated for the treatment of major depressive disorder (MDD)
Common Drug Review (CDR)	Yes, CDR recommended: to Reimburse with clinical criteria and/or conditions. Visit the CDR website for more details: www.cadth.ca/node/88649 .
Provincial Review	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. The DBC screened vortioxetine on July 7, 2019. The DBC advised that because vortioxetine is similar to some of the other drugs used for the treatment of MDD, the Ministry may accept the CDEC's recommendation for vortioxetine.
Drug Coverage Decision	Limited Coverage Benefit Access the vortioxetine criteria from www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarespecialauthority
Date	July 6, 2021
Reason(s)	Drug coverage decision is consistent with the CDEC recommendation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vortioxetine (5 mg, 10 mg, and 20 mg) demonstrated statistically significant improvements in depressive symptoms, when compared with placebo in several double-blind, randomized-controlled trials (RCTs). Based on the available evidence, vortioxetine is not considered better than other medications used to treat MDD. • The Ministry participated in the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance negotiations with the manufacturer which were able to address the concerns identified by the CDEC with respect to the cost-effectiveness.
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.