

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	ivacaftor
Brand Name	Kalydeco™
Dosage Form(s)	150 mg tablet
Manufacturer	Vertex Pharmaceuticals (Canada) Inc.
Submission Review	New Submission
Use Reviewed	Treatment of cystic fibrosis (CF) in patients with G551D mutation
Common Drug Review (CDR)	CDR recommended to: List with criteria and/or conditions. Visit CDR website for more details: www.cadth.ca/media/cdr/complete/cdr_complete_Kalydeco_March-25-13_e.pdf
Drug Benefit Council (DBC)	DBC met on July 15, 2013. DBC considered various inputs including: clinical and pharmacoeconomic evidence review material and the recommendation from the CDR; a Clinical Practice Review from one Specialist; Manufacturer comments; responses to Patient Input Questionnaires from 8 patients, 7 caregivers, and one patient group; and a Budget Impact Analysis.
Drug Coverage Decision	Non-Benefit, Exceptional Case-by-Case Coverage
Date	March 11, 2015
Reason(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug coverage decision is consistent with the DBC recommendation. In clinical studies, ivacaftor does <u>not</u> appear to improve survival, but has been shown to modestly improve lung function, reduce exacerbations and result in weight gain. • Given the high price of \$306,000 per patient per year, ivacaftor is not cost-effective. • However, the Ministry of Health recognizes that there are some patients that may benefit from funding for ivacaftor, so may consider these cases on an exceptional case-by-case, last resort basis.
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.