



Published by the Pharmaceutical Services Division to provide information for British Columbia's health care providers

COVERAGE OF ZIPRASIDONE (ZELDOX®)

—Now available as a Limited Coverage Drug through the PharmaCare Special Authority Program

Effective **immediately**, ziprasidone is a Limited Coverage drug. PharmaCare now automatically covers ziprasidone for patients who meet the criteria for olanzapine (and vice versa).

There is no change to the coverage criteria established for olanzapine and the coverage period for both olanzapine and ziprasidone is indefinite.

Criteria for coverage of olanzapine and ziprasidone:	Plan Coverage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient-specific diagnosis identified as schizophrenia or other psychosis (not dementia related) PLUS • Treatment failure or intolerance to another specified anti-psychotic agent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fair PharmaCare, Plan B (Residential Care) • Plan C (Recipients of B.C. Income Assistance) • Plan F (At-Home Program Children) • Plan G (No-Charge Psychiatric Medication Plan) • Plan P (BC Palliative Care Plan)

Patients who meet the criteria are eligible for both olanzapine and ziprasidone. Physicians can prescribe either medication at any time without further approval.

Existing Special Authority approvals for olanzapine have been updated to include ziprasidone.

This change in status for ziprasidone increases access to treatment alternatives while limiting the administrative burden on physicians.

**The use of PharmaNet is not intended as a substitute for professional judgment.
Information on PharmaNet is not exhaustive and cannot be relied upon as complete.
The absence of a warning about a drug or drug combination is not an indication that the drug or
drug combination is safe, appropriate or effective in any given patient.
Health care professionals should confirm information obtained from PharmaNet, and ensure
no additional relevant information exists, before making patient care decisions.**