

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	riociguat
Brand Name	Adempas®
Dosage Form(s)	0.5 mg, 1 mg, 1.5 mg, 2 mg and 2.5 mg tablets
Manufacturer	Bayer Inc.
Submission Review	New Submission
Use Reviewed	For the management of chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension (CTEPH)
Common Drug Review (CDR)	CDR recommended to: List with conditions . Visit the CDR website for more details: www.cadth.ca/media/cdr/complete/SR0353_complete_Adempas_Jul-21-14.pdf
Drug Benefit Council (DBC)	DBC met on October 20, 2014. DBC considered various inputs including: the final review completed by the CDR, which included clinical and pharmacoeconomic evidence review material and the recommendation from the Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC); Patient Input Questionnaire responses from one Patient Group; Clinical Practice Reviews from two specialists; and a Budget Impact Analysis.
Drug Coverage Decision	Non-Benefit
Date	March 10, 2015
Reasons	Drug coverage decision is consistent with the DBC recommendation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clinical efficacy of riociguat was assessed in one randomized controlled trial which compared riociguat to placebo. Riociguat improved the 6-minute walk distance (6MWD) by 39 m compared to placebo. There is no direct comparison of riociguat to other drugs used for the treatment of pulmonary hypertension. In the indirect comparison, riociguat was better than bosentan in 6MWD, but not in other outcomes. Based on economic considerations and the submitted product price, Adempas® was not cost-effective when compared to other drugs used to treat CTEPH.
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 the drug 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 Council
- 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.

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It does not take the place of advice from a physician or other qualified health care provider.