

STEP THERAPY POLICY

POLICY: Topical Corticosteroids Step Therapy Policy

Note: This is not an inclusive list.

- betamethasone dipropionate 0.05% (augmented) cream, gel, lotion (Diprolene[®], Diprolene[®] AF, generics)
- betamethasone dipropionate 0.05% spray (Sernivo[™] Spray)
- betamethasone valerate 0.12% foam (Luxiq[®] – Stiefel Laboratories, generics)
- clobetasol 0.05% kit (Clodan[™] – Medimetriks)
- clobetasol propionate 0.025% cream (Impoyz[™] – Promius)
- clobetasol propionate 0.05% foam (Olux[®], Olux-E[®] – Prestium, generics)
- clobetasol propionate 0.05% lotion, shampoo, liquid (Impeklo[™] – Mylan Specialty; Clobex[®] – Galderma, generics)
- clobetasol propionate 0.05% ointment, cream (Temovate[®] – Pharmaderm, generics)
- clocortolone pivalate 0.1% cream (Cloderm[®] – Promius)
- desonide 0.05% cream (Tridesilon[™] – Encore)
- desonide 0.05% foam (Verdeso[®] – Stiefel Laboratories)
- desonide 0.05% gel (Desonate[®] – SkinMedica, generics)
- desonide 0.05% lotion kit, 0.05% cream kit (Desowen[®] – Galderma Labs, generics)
- desoximetasone 0.05% cream, gel, ointment (Topicort[®] – Taro, generics)
- desoximetasone 0.25% cream, ointment, liquid (Topicort[®], Topicort[®] Spray – Taro, generics [cream and ointment only])
- diflorasone diacetate 0.05% cream (Psorcon[™] – Taro, generics)
- fluocinolone acetonide 0.01% topical shampoo (Capex[®] – Galderma)
- fluocinolone acetonide 0.025% cream and ointment and 0.01% solution, (Synalar[®] – Medimetriks, generics)
- fluocinolone acetonide 0.01% topical solution kit (Synalar[®] TS – Medimetriks Pharmaceuticals)
- fluocinolone acetonide 0.01% oil (Derma-Smooth-FS[®] – Hill, generics)
- fluocinonide 0.1% cream (Vanos[®] – Medicis, generics)
- flurandrenolide 4 mcg/sq cm tape (Cordran[®] – Actavis)
- flurandrenolide 0.05% lotion, cream, ointment (Cordran[®] – Aqua Pharmaceuticals, generics)
- fluticasone propionate 0.05% cream, lotion (Cutivate[®] – Pharmaderm, generics [cream only])
- halcinonide 0.1% cream, ointment (Halog[®] – Ranbaxy)
- halobetasol propionate 0.05% ointment and 0.05% cream kit (Ultravate[®], Ultravate[®] X – Ranbaxy Laboratories, generics [Ultravate only])
- halobetasol propionate 0.01% lotion (Bryhali[™] – Valeant)
- halobetasol propionate 0.05% foam (Lexette[™] – Mayne Pharma)
- halobetasol propionate and tazarotene lotion (Duobrii[™] – Bausch Health)
- hydrocortisone 2% lotion (Ala-Scalp[®] HP – Crown Laboratories, generics)
- hydrocortisone 2% lotion kit (Pediaderm[®] HC 2% Complete Kit – Arbor Pharmaceuticals)
- hydrocortisone 2% lotion kit (Scalacort[™] DK Kit – Avidas)
- hydrocortisone 2.5% solution (Texacort[®] – Mission Pharmaceuticals)
- hydrocortisone butyrate 0.1% cream (Locoid Lipocream[®] – Ferndale Laboratories, generics)

- hydrocortisone butyrate 0.1% lotion, cream, ointment, solution (Locoid® – Ferndale Laboratories, generics [cream, ointment, solution only])
- hydrocortisone probutate 0.1% cream (Pandel® – Collagenex)
- mometasone furoate 0.1% cream, solution, ointment (Elocon® – Merck, generics)
- hydrocortisone-pramoxine topical products (Analpram HC® 2.5%/1% cream, lotion; Epifoam®; Pramosome® 1%/1% cream; Pramosome® 2.5%/1% cream, lotion; and Proctofoam® HC 1%/1%, generics)
- prednicarbate 0.1% cream, ointment (Dermatop® – Valeant Pharmaceuticals, generics)
- triamcinolone acetonide aerosol spray (Kenalog® Aerosol Spray – Ranbaxy, generics)
- triamcinolone acetonide 0.05% ointment (Trianex® - Promius Pharma, generics)
- triamcinolone acetonide 0.1% cream (Dermasorb™ TA – Crown)
- triamcinolone acetonide 0.1% cream (Pediaderm® TA – Arbor Pharmaceuticals)

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OVERVIEW

Topical corticosteroids are, in general, indicated for **symptomatic relief of inflammation and/or pruritus associated with acute and chronic corticosteroid-responsive skin disorders (dermatoses).**¹

Topical corticosteroids are adrenocorticosteroid derivatives that possess anti-inflammatory, antipruritic, and vasoconstrictive properties.¹ These products are thought to depress the formation, release, and activity of endogenous chemical mediators of inflammation (kinins, histamine, liposomal enzymes, prostaglandins) through the induction of phospholipase A2 inhibitory proteins (lipocortins), thereby inhibiting the release of arachidonic acid. Skin diseases that are responsive to topical corticosteroids usually have an inflammatory, hyperproliferative, and/or immunologic component (Table 1).

Table 1. Conditions Treated with Topical Corticosteroids.²

High-potency steroids (Groups I to III)	Medium potency steroids (Groups IV and V)	Low potency steroids (Groups VI and VII)
Alopecia areata Atopic dermatitis (resistant) Discoid lupus Hyperkeratotic eczema Lichen planus Lichen sclerosus (skin) Lichen simplex chronicus Nummular eczema Poison ivy (severe) Psoriasis Severe hand eczema	Anal inflammation (severe) Asteatotic eczema Atopic dermatitis Lichen sclerosus (vulva) Scabies (after scabicide) Seborrheic dermatitis Severe dermatitis Severe intertrigo (short-term) Stasis dermatitis	Dermatitis (diaper) Dermatitis (eyelids) Dermatitis (face) Intertrigo Perianal inflammation

Topical corticosteroids are incorporated into a vehicle appropriate for application to the skin and external mucous membranes. Ointments are more occlusive and are generally preferred for dry scaly lesions.¹ Creams are generally preferred on oozing lesions or in intertriginous areas where a less occlusive preparation may be beneficial. Additionally, patients may prefer creams for aesthetic reasons although their water content makes them more drying than ointments. Gels, aerosols, lotions, and solutions are easier to apply on hairy areas.

Potency

Topical corticosteroids are divided into seven groups based on their potency: Group I is the most potent and Group VII is the least potent (Table 2).

Table 2. Potency Ratings of the Topical Corticosteroids* (Adapted from Micromedex).³

Generic Name (example Brand Names)	Strength	Formulations*	Available as Generics?
Group I: Super-High Potency			
Betamethasone dipropionate, augmented (Diprolene® ointment)	0.05%	ointment	yes
		gel	yes
Clobetasol propionate (Clobex® lotion, Clobex® shampoo, Olux® foam)	0.05%	cream	yes
		foam	yes
		gel	yes
		lotion	yes
		ointment	yes
		shampoo	yes
Fluocinonide	0.1%	cream	yes
Flurandrenolide (Cordran® tape)	4 mcg/m ²	tape	no
Halobetasol propionate (Ultravate® cream, Ultravate® ointment, Ultravate® lotion, Lexette™ foam)	0.05%	cream	yes
		ointment	yes
		lotion	no
		foam	no
Halobetasol propionate (Bryhali™)	0.01%	lotion	no
Group II: High Potency			
Amcinonide	0.1%	ointment	yes
Betamethasone dipropionate, augmented (Diprolene® cream, Diprolene® lotion)	0.05%	cream	yes
		lotion	yes
Betamethasone dipropionate	0.05%	cream	yes
		ointment	yes
Desoximetasone (Topicort cream®, Topicort® ointment, Topicort® spray)	0.25%	cream	yes
		ointment	yes
		spray	no
Desoximetasone (Topicort® gel)	0.05%	gel	yes
Diflorasone diacetate	0.05%	ointment	yes
Fluocinonide	0.05%	cream	yes
		gel	yes
		ointment	yes
		solution	yes
Halcinonide (Halog®)	0.1%	Cream	no
		ointment	no
Triamcinolone acetonide	0.5%	ointment	yes
Group III: Medium-High Potency			
Amcinonide	0.1%	cream	yes
		lotion	yes
Betamethasone valerate (Luxiq® foam)	0.1%	ointment	yes
	0.12%	foam	yes
Desoximetasone (Topicort® cream)	0.05%	cream	yes
Diflorasone diacetate (Psorcon® cream)	0.05%	cream	yes
Fluocinonide-E	0.05%	cream	yes
Fluticasone propionate	0.005%	ointment	yes
Mometasone furoate (Elocon® ointment)	0.1%	ointment	yes
Triamcinolone acetonide	0.5%	cream	yes
Triamcinolone acetonide	0.1%	ointment	yes
Group IV: Medium Potency			
Betamethasone dipropionate	0.05%	spray	no
Clocortolone pivalate	0.1%	cream	no
Fluocinolone acetonide (Synalar® ointment)	0.025%	ointment	yes
Flurandrenolide (Cordran® ointment)	0.05%	ointment	no
Hydrocortisone probutate (Pandel®)	0.1%	cream	no

Table 2 (continued). Potency Ratings of the Topical Corticosteroids* (Adapted from Micromedex).³

Generic Name (example Brand Names)	Strength	Formulations*	Available as Generics?
Hydrocortisone valerate	0.2%	ointment	yes
Mometasone furoate (Elocon [®] cream, Elocon [®] lotion)	0.1%	cream lotion solution	yes yes yes
Prednicarbate (Dermatop [®] ointment)	0.1%	ointment	yes
Triamcinolone acetonide (Trianex [®])	0.05%	ointment	yes
Group V: Medium-Low Potency			
Betamethasone dipropionate	0.05%	lotion	yes
Betamethasone valerate	0.1%	cream	yes
Desonide (DesOwen [®] lotion)	0.05%	lotion ointment	yes yes
Fluocinolone acetonide (Synalar [®] cream)	0.025%	cream	yes
Flurandrenolide (Cordran [®] cream)	0.05%	cream	yes
Fluticasone propionate (Cutivate [®] cream)	0.05%	cream	yes
Hydrocortisone butyrate	0.1%	cream	yes
Hydrocortisone valerate	0.2%	cream	yes
Prednicarbate	0.1%	cream	yes
Triamcinolone acetonide	0.1%	lotion	yes
Group VI: Low Potency			
Alclometasone dipropionate	0.05%	cream ointment	yes yes
Betamethasone valerate	0.05%	lotion	yes
Desonide (Desowen [®] cream)	0.05%	cream	yes
Fluocinolone acetonide (Synalar [®] cream, Synalar [®] solution)	0.01%	cream oil solution	yes yes yes
Triamcinolone acetonide	0.025%	cream	yes
Group VII: Lowest Potency			
Hydrocortisone preparations not previously listed			
Formulations containing dexamethasone, methylprednisolone, or prednisolone			

* This table may not include all available topical corticosteroids (strength or formulation).

POLICY STATEMENT

This program has been developed to encourage the use of two prescription Step 1 Products prior to the use of a Step 2 Product. If the Step Therapy rule is not met for a Step 2 Product at the point of service, coverage will be determined by the Step Therapy criteria below. All approvals are provided for 1 year in duration.

Automation: A patient with a history of two prescription Step 1 Products within the 130-day look-back period is excluded from Step Therapy.

Step 1: Generic topical corticosteroid products: Note: This is not an inclusive list.

Alclometasone 0.05% ointment/cream
 Betamethasone dipropionate 0.05% lotion/cream/ointment
 Betamethasone dipropionate, augmented 0.05% cream/ointment/lotion
 Betamethasone valerate 0.1% cream/lotion/ointment
 Clobetasol propionate 0.05% cream/emollient cream/gel/ointment/solution
 Desonide 0.05% cream/ointment
 Fluocinolone acetonide 0.01% cream/solution
 Fluocinolone acetonide 0.025% cream/ointment
 Fluocinolone acetonide 0.01% topical oil
 Fluocinonide 0.05% cream/emollient cream/gel/ointment/solution
 Fluticasone propionate 0.05% cream
 Fluticasone propionate 0.005% ointment

Halobetasol propionate 0.05% cream/ointment
 Hydrocortisone 2% lotion
 Hydrocortisone 1% cream/lotion/ointment/solution
 Hydrocortisone 2.5% cream/lotion/ointment
 Hydrocortisone butyrate 0.1% cream/emollient cream
 Hydrocortisone valerate 0.2% cream/ointment
 Mometasone furoate 0.1% cream/solution/ointment
 Prednicarbate 0.1% cream/ointment
 Triamcinolone acetonide 0.025% cream/lotion/ointment
 Triamcinolone acetonide 0.1% cream/lotion/ointment
 Triamcinolone acetonide 0.5% cream/ointment

Step 2: Topical corticosteroid products: Note: This is not an inclusive list.

Ala-Scalp HP	Halog 0.1% cream
Amcinonide 0.1% cream/lotion/ointment	Halog 0.1% ointment
AnalpramHC 2.5%/1% cream, lotion	Hydrocortisone butyrate 0.1% lotion/ointment/solution
Aqua Glycolic HC	hydrocortisone-pramoxine 2.5%-1% cream
Beser 0.05% lotion (branded generic product)	Impeklo lotion
Betamethasone valerate 0.12% foam	Impoyz 0.025% cream
Bryhali 0.01% lotion	Kenalog Aerosol Spray
Capex 0.01% topical shampoo	Lexette 0.05% foam
Clobetasol propionate 0.05% foam/shampoo/spray/lotion	Locoid Lipocream
Clobex 0.05% shampoo	Locoid 0.1% lotion/cream/ointment/solution
Clobex 0.05% spray	Luxiq 0.12% foam
Clobex 0.05% topical lotion	Nolix 0.05% cream/lotion (branded generic product)
Clodan 0.05% kit	Olux 0.05% foam
Cloderm 0.1% cream	Olux-E 0.05% foam
Cordran 0.05% lotion/ointment	Pandel 0.1% cream
Cordran SP 0.05% cream	Pediaderm HC 2% Complete Kit
Cordran 4 mcg/sq cm tape	Pediaderm TA 0.1% Complete Kit
Cutivate 0.05% lotion/cream	Pramosone 1%/1% lotion
Derma-Smoother/FS Scalp Oil	Pramosone 2.5%/1% cream, lotion
Dermasorb HC	Proctofoam HC 1%/1%
Dermasorb TA	Psorcon 0.05% cream
Dermatop 0.1% ointment/cream	Scalacort DK Kit
Desonide 0.05% gel and lotion	Sernivo 0.05% spray
Desonate 0.05% gel	Synalar 0.025% cream/ointment/0.01% solution
Desowen 0.05% cream kit	Synalar TS Kit
Desowen 0.05% lotion kit	Temovate 0.05% cream/ointment
Desoximetasone 0.05% cream/gel/ointment	Texacort 2.5% solution
Desoximetasone 0.25% cream/ointment	Topicort 0.05% ointment/cream/gel
Diflorasone diacetate 0.05% cream/ointment	Topicort 0.25% ointment/cream
Diprolene 0.05% ointment/lotion	Topicort Spray 0.25%
Diprolene AF 0.05% cream	Triamcinolone acetonide 0.05% ointment
Duobrii lotion	Triamcinolone acetonide aerosol spray
Elocon 0.1% ointment/cream/solution	Trianex 0.05% ointment (branded generic product)
Epifoam	Triderm 0.5% cream (branded generic product)
Fluocinonide 0.1% cream	Tridesilon cream 0.05%
Flurandrenolide 0.05% cream/lotion/ointment	Ultravate 0.05% cream/lotion/ointment
Fluticasone propionate 0.05% lotion	Ultravate X 0.05%-10% combination pack
Halcinonide 0.1% cream	Vanos 0.1% cream
	Verdeso 0.5% foam

CRITERIA

1. If the patient has tried two prescription Step 1 Products for the *current* condition, approve a Step 2 Product.
2. No other exceptions are recommended.

REFERENCES

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