

STEP THERAPY POLICY

POLICY: Ophthalmic Prostaglandins Step Therapy Policy

- Bimatoprost 0.03% ophthalmic solution (generics to discontinued Lumigan® 0.03% ophthalmic solution)
- Lumigan® (bimatoprost 0.01% ophthalmic solution – Allergan)
- Rocklatan™ (netarsudil 0.02%/latanoprost 0.005% ophthalmic solution – Aerie Pharmaceuticals)
- Travatan® Z (travoprost 0.004% ophthalmic solution – Alcon, generics)
- Vyzulta™ (latanoprostene bunod 0.024% ophthalmic solution – Bausch & Lomb)
- Xalatan® (latanoprost 0.005% ophthalmic solution – Pharmacia & Upjohn, generics)
- Xelpros™ (latanoprost 0.005% ophthalmic emulsion – Sun Pharmaceuticals)
- Zioptan® (tafluprost 0.0015% ophthalmic solution – Merck)

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OVERVIEW

The ophthalmic prostaglandins are indicated for the **reduction of elevated intraocular pressure (IOP)** in patients with open-angle glaucoma (OAG) or ocular hypertension (OH).¹⁻⁸

Single-entity ophthalmic prostanoids include prostaglandin analogues (Travatan Z, Vyzulta, Zioptan, and latanoprost [Xalatan/generics, Xelpros]) and prostamides (Lumigan, bimatoprost 0.03% [generic to discontinued Lumigan 0.03%]). Rocklatan is a combination product containing netarsudil and latanoprost. Bimatoprost is also available as a 0.03% ophthalmic solution (marketed as Latisse®) indicated to treat hypotrichosis of the eyelashes by increasing their growth including length, thickness, and darkness.⁹ (Note: Latisse is not included in this Step Therapy Policy).

Efficacy/Guidelines

All of the prostaglandins have demonstrated similar efficacy in lowering IOP.¹⁰⁻¹³ A recent systematic review and network meta-analysis evaluated 114 randomized controlled studies involving various ophthalmic products for the treatment of primary open angle glaucoma.¹⁴ The authors concluded that the prostaglandins (bimatoprost, latanoprost, travoprost, and tafluprost) were more efficacious than drugs in other classes and the within-class differences were generally small. The American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) preferred practice guidelines (2015) for the treatment of primary open-angle glaucoma note that the initial therapy choice may be influenced by potential cost, side effects, and dosing schedules.¹⁵ According to the guidelines, prostaglandins are the most frequently used initial eye drops for lowering IOP in patients with glaucoma. The guidelines also state that prostaglandins are the most effective drugs at lowering IOP and that they can be considered as initial medical therapy. The AAO further adds that the ophthalmologist should consider the balance between adverse events and effectiveness in choosing a regimen for each patient. The AAO does not note a preference for one prostaglandin vs. another.

Conjunctival Hyperemia

All of the agents in this class have been noted to cause conjunctival hyperemia.¹⁻⁸ While not a direct comparison, the incidences of hyperemia reported in product labeling with the prostaglandins are as follows: latanoprost (Xalatan, generics) 5% to 15%; Xelpros, ocular hyperemia, 41%, conjunctival hyperemia, 15%; Vyzulta 6%, Zioptan 4% to 20%; Lumigan 0.01% or bimatoprost 0.03%, 25% to 45%; Travatan Z, 30% to 50%; Rocklatan 59%. The discontinuation rates noted in the package labeling due to conjunctival hyperemia were < 1% of patients for latanoprost (Xalatan, generics), 0.5% to 3% of patients for Lumigan 0.01% or bimatoprost 0.03%, up to 3% of patients for Travatan Z, and 5% of patients for Rocklatan. The discontinuation rate due to ocular hyperemia was < 1% for Xelpros. The discontinuation

rate due to ocular adverse events, including ocular hyperemia, conjunctival irritation, eye irritation, eye pain, conjunctival edema, blurred vision, punctate keratitis, and foreign body sensation is 0.6% for Vyzulta. A 2010 meta-analysis found the probability of hyperemia-type reactions varied between the prostaglandins, with latanoprost significantly less likely to cause hyperemia compared with Lumigan, travoprost, or their combination with timolol (mean proportion was 24%, 59%, and 47% for latanoprost [Xalatan, generics], Lumigan, and travoprost, respectively).¹⁶

Preservatives

Benzalkonium chloride (BAK) is the most common preservative used in ophthalmic products, including the ophthalmic prostaglandins, and it can have toxic effects on the cornea and conjunctiva.¹⁷ Travatan Z, Xelpros, and Zioptan are the currently available BAK-free ophthalmic prostaglandins.^{1,3,5} Travatan Z is preserved with an ionic buffered system, sofZia (boric acid, propylene glycol, sorbitol, zinc chloride).¹ Xelpros is preserved with potassium sorbate 0.47%.⁵ Zioptan does not contain any preservatives.³

POLICY STATEMENT

This program has been developed to encourage the use of a Step 1 Product 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 one Step 1 Product within the 130-day look-back period is excluded from Step Therapy.

Step 1: generic latanoprost ophthalmic solution, generic bimatoprost 0.03% ophthalmic solution, generic travoprost 0.004% ophthalmic solution (generic to Travatan Z)

Step 2: Lumigan, Rocklatan, Travatan Z, Xalatan, Xelpros, Vyzulta, Zioptan

CRITERIA

1. If the patient has tried one Step 1 Product, approve a Step 2 Product.
2. If the patient has a known benzalkonium chloride (BAK) sensitivity AND a known sensitivity to other ophthalmic preservatives, approve Xelpros or Zioptan.
3. No other exceptions are recommended.

REFERENCES

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2. Vyzulta[™] [prescribing information]. Bridgewater, NJ: Bausch & Lomb, division of Valeant Pharmaceuticals North America LLC; May 2019.
3. Zioptan[®] 0.0015% ophthalmic solution [prescribing information]. Lake Forest, IL: Akorn, Inc; November 2018.
4. Xalatan[®] 0.005% ophthalmic solution [prescribing information]. New York, NY: Pharmacia & Upjohn Co, Division of Pfizer Inc; April 2017.
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6. Lumigan[®] 0.01% ophthalmic solution [prescribing information]. Madison, NJ: Allergan; September 2020.
7. Bimatoprost 0.03% ophthalmic solution [prescribing information]. Lake Forest, IL: Akorn Inc; October 2020.
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