

## STEP THERAPY POLICY

- POLICY:** Topical Acne – Kits Step Therapy Policy
- Clindacin™ ETZ 1% Kit (clindamycin phosphate 1% pledget and Acuwash® cleanser – Medimetriks)
  - Clindacin™ PAC Kit (clindamycin phosphate 1% pledget and Acuwash® cleanser – Medimetriks)

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### OVERVIEW

Many topical products are available for the **treatment of acne vulgaris**.<sup>1,2</sup> Benzoyl peroxide-containing products are generally indicated for the treatment and prevention of mild to moderate acne vulgaris. Sulfacetamide sodium and sulfur are antimicrobial and antiseptic agents, respectively, and are available in a variety of strengths and formulations. They help to remove keratin and to dry the skin. These products (sulfacetamide/sulfur) are additionally used for acne rosacea and seborrheic dermatitis. Topical clindamycin products are indicated for the treatment of acne vulgaris. Acne treatment guidelines do not prefer any of the brand name products over the similar generic products.<sup>3</sup>

### 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 prescription topical acne product (Step 1) and one prescription acne cleanser (Step 1) within the 130-day look-back period is excluded from Step Therapy.

**Step 1:** Prescription topical acne products: brand or generic topical adapalene, azelaic acid, benzoyl peroxide, clindamycin, dapsone, sulfacetamide or sulfacetamide/sulfur-containing products (see Appendix A for examples); and  
Prescription topical acne cleansers: brand or generic topical benzoyl peroxide- or sulfacetamide/sulfur-containing products (see Appendix A for examples).

**Step 2:** Acne kits (e.g., Clindacin ETZ, Clindacin PAC)

### CRITERIA

1. If the patient has tried one prescription topical acne product (Step 1) AND one prescription acne cleanser (Step 1), approve a Step 2 Product.
2. No other exceptions are recommended.

**REFERENCES**

1. Facts and Comparisons® Online. Wolters Kluwer Health, Inc.; 2020. Available at: <http://online.factsandcomparisons.com/login.aspx?url=/index.aspx&q=>. Accessed on November 24, 2020. Search terms: benzoyl peroxide, clindamycin, sulfacetamide/sulfur.
2. Clinical Pharmacology© 2020. Available at <http://www.clinicalpharmacology-ip.com/Default.aspx>. Accessed on November 24, 2020. Search Terms: sulfur and sulfacetamide, clindamycin, benzoyl peroxide.
3. Thiboutot DM, Dreno B, Abanmi A, et al. Practical management of acne for clinicians: an international consensus from the Global Alliance to Improve Outcomes in Acne. *J Am Acad Dermatol.* 2018;78:S1-S23.

**Appendix A**

Examples (not a complete list)

**Prescription Topical Acne Products (not cleansers).**

| Generic name                     | Trade names (examples)   |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Adapalene                        | Differin <sup>®</sup> , Plixda <sup>™</sup>                      |
| Azelaic Acid                     | Azelex <sup>®</sup>  |
| Benzoyl peroxide                 | Inova <sup>®</sup> Easy Pad <sup>®</sup>                         |
| Benzoyl peroxide/ clindamycin    | Acanya <sup>®</sup> , BenzaClin <sup>®</sup>                     |
| Benzoyl peroxide/ erythromycin   | Benzamycin <sup>®</sup>  |
| Benzoyl peroxide/ salicylic acid | Inova <sup>®</sup> 4/1 Easy Pad, Inova <sup>®</sup> 8/2 Easy Pad |
| Clindamycin phosphate            | Cleocin T <sup>®</sup> , Evoclin <sup>®</sup>                    |
| Clindamycin/tretinoin            | Veltin <sup>™</sup> , Ziana <sup>®</sup>                         |
| Dapsone                          | Aczone <sup>®</sup>  |
| Sulfacetamide                    | Klaron <sup>®</sup>  |
| Sulfacetamide/sulfur             | Avar-e <sup>®™</sup> , Avar-e <sup>®</sup> LS                    |

Refer to *Topical Acne – Topical Product Step Therapy Policy* for more examples.

**Prescription Acne Cleansers**

| Generic name         | Trade names (examples)   |
|----------------------|--|
| Benzoyl peroxide     | Pacnex <sup>®</sup> 7% wash, Pacnex <sup>®</sup> HP, Pacnex <sup>®</sup> LP  |
| Sulfacetamide/sulfur | Avar <sup>™</sup> , Avar <sup>™</sup> LS, Plexion <sup>®</sup> , Sumadan <sup>™</sup> , Sumaxin <sup>®</sup> CP, Sumaxin <sup>®</sup> , Sumaxin TS |

Refer to *Topical Acne – Cleansers Step Therapy Policy* for more examples.