

## 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)
  - Clindavix Kit (clindamycin phosphate topical solution 1% and Dynashield [dimethicone 1.8%, zinc oxide 2%] – Perrigo [obsolete 08/01/2022])

**REVIEW DATE:** 12/20/2023

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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.<sup>3-5</sup> Both Clindacin ETZ kit and Clindacin PAC kit include topical clindamycin pledgets and a bottle of Acuwash® moisturizing daily cleanser.<sup>3,4</sup> Clindavix kit includes clindamycin topical solution and a tube of Dynashield (dimethicone, zinc oxide), which is a general skin protectant.<sup>5</sup> Acne treatment guidelines do not prefer any of the brand name products over similar generic products.<sup>6</sup>

### POLICY STATEMENT

This program has been developed to encourage the use of a Step 1 Product (one prescription topical acne product and one prescription acne cleanser) 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 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 (Clindacin ETZ, Clindacin PAC, Clindavix Kit)

### 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.

08/01/2022

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## REFERENCES

1. Facts and Comparisons® Online. Wolters Kluwer Health, Inc.; 2023. Available at: <https://fco.factsandcomparisons.com/lco/action/home>. Accessed on December 14, 2023. Search terms: benzoyl peroxide, clindamycin, sulfacetamide/sulfur.
2. Clinical Pharmacology © 2023. Available at <https://www.clinicalkey.com/pharmacology/>. Accessed on December 14, 2023. Search Terms: sulfur and sulfacetamide, clindamycin, benzoyl peroxide.
3. Clindacin® ETZ [prescribing information]. Fairfield, NJ: Medimetriks; September 2022.
4. Clindacin® PAC [prescribing information]. Fairfield, NJ: Medimetriks; November 2022.
5. Clindavix [prescribing information]. Allegan, MI: Perrigo; May 2018.
6. 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).**

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

### **Prescription Acne Cleansers.**

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