

PREFERRED STEP THERAPY POLICY

POLICY: Ophthalmic – Glaucoma –Carbonic Anhydrase Inhibitors
Preferred Step Therapy

APPROVAL DATE: 09/18/2019

DRUGS AFFECTED: Trusopt® (dorzolamide 2% ophthalmic solution – Merck, generics)

OVERVIEW

Glaucoma is an ocular disorder that leads to an optic neuropathy characterized by changes in the optic nerve head (optic disk) that is associated with loss of visual sensitivity and field.¹ The two major types of glaucoma are open-angle glaucoma and closed-angle glaucoma. Primary open-angle glaucoma is the most common type of glaucoma, affecting up to 3 million individuals in the US. Reduction of intraocular pressure (IOP) is essential. Patients with ocular hypertension (IOP of > 22 mmHg) may be treated even in the absence of nerve damage, especially if there are other risk factors for glaucoma (e.g., severe myopia, Black race, family history of glaucoma). Reduction of IOP prevents onset and/or progression of glaucoma.

Topical carbonic anhydrase inhibitors can lower IOP by 15% to 26%.¹ The topical carbonic anhydrase inhibitors do not reduce IOP as well as timolol. Dorzolamide 2% ophthalmic solution is indicated in the treatment of elevated IOP in patients with ocular hypertension or open-angle glaucoma.² For maximal effect, it should be administered every 8 hours. Dorzolamide causes stinging and burning because of its low pH, and bitter taste is also a side effect.² Topical dorzolamide ophthalmic solution may be used as an alternative in patients who cannot tolerate or have a contraindication to other topical therapies.¹

POLICY STATEMENT

A preferred step therapy program has been developed to encourage the use of one Step 1 product prior to the use of a Step 2 product. If the preferred step therapy rule is not met for a Step 2 agent at the point of service, coverage will be determined by the preferred step therapy criteria below. All approvals are provided for 1 year in duration.

Automation: Patients with a history of one Step 1 drug within the 130-day look-back period are excluded from step therapy.

Step 1: generic dorzolamide 2% ophthalmic solution

Step 2: Trusopt

CRITERIA

1. If the patient has tried one Step 1 product, authorization for a Step 2 product may be given.
2. No other exceptions are recommended.

REFERENCES

1. Fiscella RG, Lesar TS, Edward D. Glaucoma. In: DiPiro JT, Talbert RL, Yee GC, et al., (Eds). *Pharmacotherapy - A Pathophysiologic Approach*. 7th ed. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill. 2008:1551-1564.
2. Trusopt® ophthalmic solution [prescribing information]. Whitehouse Station, NJ: Merck & Co., Inc.; February 2014.