STEP THERAPY POLICY

POLICY: Topical Corticosteroids Step Therapy Policy

Generic Name (example Brand Names)*	Strength	Topical Formulation
Alclometasone dipropionate (Aclovate®)	0.05%	cream, ointment
Amcinonide (Cyclocort®)	0.1%	cream, lotion, ointment
Betamethasone dipropionate, augmented (Diprolene®, Diprolene® AF)	0.05%	cream, gel, lotion, ointment
Betamethasone dipropionate (Diprolene®, Diprosone®, Sernivo™ Spray)	0.05%	cream, lotion, ointment, spray
Betamethasone valerate (Luxiq®)	0.1%	cream, lotion, ointment
	0.12%	foam
Clobetasol propionate (Clobex®, Clodan®, Impeklo™, Impoyz™, Olux®, Olux-E®, Temovate®)	0.025%	cream
	0.05%	cream, foam, gel, lotion, ointment, shampoo, solution, spray
Clocortolone pivalate (Cloderm®)	0.1%	cream
Desonide (Desonate®, DesOwen®, Tridesilon™, Verdeso®)	0.05%	cream, foam, gel, lotion, ointment
Desoximetasone (Topicort®)	0.05%	cream, gel, ointment
	0.25%	cream, ointment, spray
Diflorasone diacetate (Psorcon®)	0.05%	cream, ointment
Fluocinolone acetonide (Capex®, Derma-Smoothe/FS®, Synalar®)	0.01%	cream, body oil, scalp oil, solution
	0.025%	cream, ointment
Fluocinonide (Lidex®, Vanos®)	0.05%	cream, gel, ointment, solution
	0.1%	cream
Flurandrenolide (Cordan®, Nolix®)	0.05%	cream, lotion, ointment
	4 mcg/cm^2	tape
Fluticasone propionate (Beser™, Cutivate®)	0.005%	ointment
	0.05%	cream, lotion
Halcinonide (Halog®)	0.1%	cream, ointment, solution
Halobetasol propionate (Bryhali™, Lexette™, Ultravate®)	0.01%	lotion
	0.05%	cream, foam, ointment
Halobetasol propionate and tazarotene (Duobrii™)	0.01%/0.045%	lotion
Hydrocortisone acetate (Ala-Scalp® HP, Cortaid®, Pediaderm® HC, Scalacort™ DK Kit, Texacort®)	0.5%	cream, ointment
	1%	cream, lotion, ointment, solution
	2%	lotion
	2.5%	cream, lotion, ointment
Hydrocortisone butyrate (Locoid®)	0.1%	cream, lotion, ointment, solution
Hydrocortisone-pramoxine (Analpram HC®, Epifoam®; Pramosone®, Proctofoam® HC)	1%/1%	cream, foam
	2.5%/1%	cream, lotion
Hydrocortisone probutate (Pandel®)	0.1%	cream
Hydrocortisone valerate (Westcort®)	0.2%	cream, ointment
Mometasone furoate (Elocon®)	0.1%	cream, lotion, ointment, solution
Prednicarbate (Dermatop®)	0.1%	cream, ointment
Triamcinolone acetonide (Dermasorb™ TA, Kenalog® Aerosol Spray, Pediaderm® TA, Trianex®, Triderm™)	0.025%	cream, lotion, ointment
	0.05%	ointment
	0.1%	cream, lotion, ointment, paste
	0.147 mg/g	spray
	0.5%	cream, ointment

* This list is not all-inclusive and may not include all available topical corticosteroids (strength or formulation).

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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	Anal inflammation (severe)	Dermatitis (diaper)
Atopic dermatitis (resistant)	Asteatotic eczema	Dermatitis (eyelids)
Discoid lupus	Atopic dermatitis	Dermatitis (face)
Hyperkeratotic eczema	Lichen sclerosus (vulva)	Intertrigo
Lichen planus	Scabies (after scabicide)	Perianal inflammation
Lichen sclerosus (skin)	Seborrheic dermatitis	
Lichen simplex chronicus	Severe dermatitis	
Nummular eczema	Severe intertrigo (short-term)	
Poison ivy (severe)	Stasis dermatitis	
Psoriasis		
Severe hand eczema		

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.

POLICY STATEMENT

This program has been developed to encourage the use of two prescription Step 1a Products prior to the use of a Step 2a Product (Duobrii is not included). A trial of one prescription Step 1b Product is required prior to the use of Duobrii (Step 2b). If the Step Therapy rule is not met for a Step 2 Product (a or b) 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 1a Products within the 130-day look-back period is excluded from Step Therapy (Note: Duobrii is not included in this Step). For Duobrii (Step 2b), a patient with a history of one prescription Step 1b Product within the 130-day look-back period is excluded from Step Therapy.

Step 1a/2a

Step 1a 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 2a topical corticosteroid products: Note: This is not an inclusive list.

• Ala-Scalp HP • Amcinonide 0.1% cream/lotion/ointment • Analpram HC 2.5%/1% cream, lotion • Aqua Glycolic HC • Beser 0.05% lotion (branded generic product) • Betamethasone valerate 0.12% foam • Bryhali 0.01% lotion • Capex 0.01% topical shampoo • Clobetasol propionate 0.05% foam/shampoo/ spray/lotion • Clobex 0.05% shampoo • Clobex 0.05% spray • Clobex 0.05% topical lotion • Clodan 0.05% kit • Cloderm 0.1% cream • Cordran 0.05% lotion/ointment • Cordran SP 0.05% cream • Cordran 4 mcg/sq cm tape • Cutivate 0.05% lotion/cream • Derma-Smoothe/FS Scalp Oil • Dermasorb HC • Dermasorb TA • Dermatop 0.1% ointment/cream • Desonide 0.05% gel and lotion • Desonate 0.05% gel • Desowen 0.05% cream kit • Desowen 0.05% lotion kit	• Hydrocortisone butyrate 0.1% lotion/ointment/ solution • Hydrocortisone-pramoxine 2.5%-1% cream • Impeklo lotion • Impoyz 0.025% cream • Kenalog Aerosol Spray • Lexette 0.05% foam • Locoid Lipocream • Locoid 0.1% lotion/cream/ointment/solution • Luxiq 0.12% foam • Nolix 0.05% cream/lotion (branded generic product) • Olux 0.05% foam • Olux-E 0.05% foam • Pandel 0.1% cream • Pediaderm HC 2% Complete Kit • Pediaderm TA 0.1% Complete Kit • Pramosone 1%/1% lotion • Pramosone 2.5%/1% cream, lotion • Proctofoam HC 1%/1% • Psorcon 0.05% cream • Scalacort DK Kit • Sernivo 0.05% spray • Synalar 0.025% cream/ointment • Synalar 0.01% solution • Synalar TS Kit • Temovate 0.05% cream/ointment

• Desoximetasone 0.05% cream/gel/ointment • Desoximetasone 0.25% cream/ointment • Diflorasone diacetate 0.05% cream/ointment • Diprolene 0.05% ointment/lotion • Diprolene AF 0.05% creamElocon 0.1% ointment/cream/solution • Epifoam • Fluocinonide 0.1% cream • Flurandrenolide 0.05% cream/lotion/ointment • Fluticasone propionate 0.05% lotion • Halcinonide 0.1% cream • Halog 0.1% cream • Halog 0.1% ointment	• Texacort 2.5% solution • Topicort 0.05% ointment/cream/gel • Topicort 0.25% ointment/cream • Topicort Spray 0.25% • Triamcinolone acetonide 0.05% ointment Triamcinolone acetonide aerosol spray • Trianex 0.05% ointment (branded generic product) • Triderm 0.5% cream (branded generic product) • Tridesilon cream 0.05% • Ultravate 0.05% cream/lotion/ointment • Ultravate X 0.05%-10% combination pack • Vanos 0.1% cream • Verdeso 0.5% foam

Step 1b/2b (Duobrii)

Step 1a 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 2b topical corticosteroid:

- Duobrii

CRITERIA

Step 2a topical corticosteroid products

1. If the patient has tried two prescription Step 1a Products for the *current* condition, approve a Step 2a Product.

2. No other exceptions are recommended.

Duobrii

1. If the patient has tried one prescription Step 1b Product for the *current* condition, approve Duobrii.

2. No other exceptions are recommended.

REFERENCES

1. Facts and Comparisons® eAnswers. Wolters Kluver; 2020. Available at: http://fco.factsandcomparisons.com/lco/action/home;jsessionid=67902c2171151c4f43159771c4ec. Accessed on July 13, 2021. Search terms: topical corticosteroids.
2. Ference JD. Choosing topical corticosteroids. *Am Fam Physician*. 2009;79(2):135-140.