

Clinical Policy: Ophthalmic, Antibiotic-Steroid Combination

Reference Number: PHW.PDL.036

Effective Date: 01/01/2020

Last Review Date: 11/2023

[Revision Log](#)

Policy/Criteria

Provider must submit documentation (such as office chart notes, lab results or other clinical information) supporting that member has met all approval criteria.

It is the policy of PA Health and Wellness® that Antibiotic-Steroid Combination Ophthalmic Agents are **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Requirements for Prior Authorization of Ophthalmics, Antibiotic-Steroid Combinations

A. Prescriptions That Require Prior Authorization

All prescriptions for a non-preferred Ophthalmic, Antibiotic-Steroid Combination must be prior authorized.

B. Review of Documentation for Medical Necessity

In evaluating a request for prior authorization of a prescription for a non-preferred Ophthalmic, Antibiotic-Steroid Combination, the determination of whether the requested prescription is medically necessary will take into account the whether the beneficiary:

1. Has a history of therapeutic failure, contraindication, or intolerance to the preferred Ophthalmics, Antibiotic-Steroid Combinations.

NOTE: If the beneficiary does not meet the clinical review guidelines listed above but, in the professional judgment of the physician reviewer, the services are medically necessary to meet the medical needs of the beneficiary, the request for prior authorization will be approved.

C. Clinical Review Process

Prior authorization personnel will review the request for prior authorization and apply the clinical guidelines in Section B. above to assess the medical necessity of a prescription for a non-preferred Ophthalmic, Antibiotic-steroid combinations. If the guidelines in Section B. are met, the reviewer will prior authorize the prescription. If the guidelines are not met, the prior authorization request will be referred to a physician reviewer for a medical necessity determination. Such a request for prior authorization will be approved when, in the professional judgment of the physician

reviewer, the services are medically necessary to meet the medical needs of the beneficiary.

D. Approval Duration: 6 months

| Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals | Date |
|--|-------------|
| Policy created | 01/01/2020 |
| Q3 2020 annual review: no changes. | 07/2020 |
| Q1 2021 annual review: no changes. | 01/2021 |
| Q1 2022 annual review: no changes. | 11/2021 |
| Q1 2023 annual review: no changes. | 11/2022 |
| Q1 2024 annual review: no changes. | 11/2023 |