

Clinical Policy: Acne Agents, Oral

Reference Number: PHW.PDL.709

Effective Date: 01/01/2020

Last Review Date: 11/2025

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 & Wellness[®] that Acne Agents, Oral are **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Requirements for Prior Authorization of Acne Agents, Oral

A. Prescriptions That Require Prior Authorization

All prescriptions for Acne Agents, Oral must be prior authorized.

B. Review of Documentation for Medical Necessity

In evaluating a request for prior authorization of a prescription for an Acne Agent, Oral, the determination of whether the requested prescription is medically necessary will take into account whether the member:

1. Is being treated for a diagnosis that is indicated in the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved package labeling OR a medically accepted indication; **AND**
2. Is age-appropriate according to FDA-approved package labeling, nationally recognized compendia, or peer-reviewed medical literature; **AND**
3. Is prescribed a dose and duration of therapy that is consistent with FDA-approved package labeling, nationally recognized compendia, or peer-reviewed medical literature; **AND**
4. Is prescribed the Acne Agent, Oral by or in consultation with a dermatologist; **AND**
5. For an indication of acne, has a history of therapeutic failure, contraindication, or intolerance to **all** of the following:
 - a. An oral antibiotic recommended for the treatment of acne,
 - b. A topical antibiotic recommended for the treatment of acne,
 - c. A topical retinoid;

AND

6. For a non-preferred Acne Agent, Oral, has a history of therapeutic failure, contraindication, or intolerance of the preferred Acne Agents, Oral.

NOTE: If the member does not meet the clinical review guidelines above but, in the professional judgement of the physician reviewer, the services are medically necessary to meet the medical needs of the member, 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 the request for a prescription for an Acne Agent, Oral. 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 member.

D. **Approval Duration: 6 months**

E. References

1. Zaenglein, AL, Pathy, AL, et.al. Guidelines of care for the management of acne vulgaris. Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology 2016;74:945-73.
2. Isotretinoin Prescribing Information. Bridgewater, NJ. Amneal Pharmaceuticals LLC. April 2018.

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 2023: policy revised according to DHS revisions effective 01/09/2023	10/2022
Q1 2024 annual review: no changes.	11/2023
Q1 2025 annual review: no changes.	11/2024
Q1 2026 annual review: no changes.	11/2025