

Clinical Policy: Intranasal Rhinitis Agents

Reference Number: PHW.PDL.019

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 Intranasal Rhinitis Agents are **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Requirements for Prior Authorization of Intranasal Rhinitis Agents

A. Prescriptions That Require Prior Authorization

Prescriptions for Intranasal Rhinitis Agents that meet the following conditions must be prior authorized:

1. A non-preferred Intranasal Rhinitis Agent.
2. An Intranasal Rhinitis Agent with a prescribed quantity that exceeds the quantity limit.
3. An Intranasal Rhinitis Agent containing an antihistamine when there is a record of a recent paid claim for another Intranasal Rhinitis Agent containing an antihistamine (therapeutic duplication).
4. An Intranasal Rhinitis Agent containing a steroid when there is a record of a recent paid claim for another Intranasal Rhinitis Agent containing a steroid (therapeutic duplication).

EXEMPTION FROM PRIOR AUTHORIZATION: Triamcinolone acetonide nasal spray is exempt from prior authorization when prescribed for a child under four (4) years of age.

B. Review of Documentation for Medical Necessity

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

1. For a non-preferred Intranasal Rhinitis Agent, has a history of therapeutic failure, contraindication, or intolerance of the preferred Intranasal Rhinitis Agents with the same mechanism of action; **AND**

2. For therapeutic duplication, **one** of the following:
- a. Is being titrated to or tapered from another Intranasal Rhinitis Agent containing an agent with the same mechanism of action
 - b. Has a medical reason for concomitant use of the requested medications that is supported by peer-reviewed literature or national treatment guidelines;

AND

3. If a prescription for an Intranasal Rhinitis Agent is for a quantity that exceeds the quantity limit, the determination of whether the prescription is medically necessary will also take into account the guidelines set forth in PA.CP.PMN.59 Quantity Limit Override.

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 a prescription for an Intranasal Rhinitis Agent. 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. Automated Prior Authorization

Prior authorization of a prescription for a non-preferred Intranasal Rhinitis Agent with a prescribed quantity that does not exceed the quantity limit established by DHS will be automatically approved when the Point-of-Sale On-Line Claims Adjudication System verifies a record of a paid claim(s) within 365 days prior to the date of service that documents that the guidelines to determine medical necessity listed in Section B. have been met.

E. Approval Duration: 12 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

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date
Q1 2022 annual review: no changes.	11/2021
Q1 2023 annual review: no changes.	11/2022
Q1 2024 annual review: no changes.	11/2023
Q1 2025 annual review: no changes.	11/2024
Q1 2026 annual review: no changes.	11/2025