

Clinical Policy: Ophthalmics, Anti-Inflammatories

Reference Number: PHW.PDL.013

Effective Date: 01/01/2020

Last Review Date: 10/2021

[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 health plans affiliated with PA Health and Wellness® that Ophthalmic Anti-inflammatory Agents are **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Requirements for Prior Authorization of Ophthalmics, Anti-Inflammatories

A. Prescriptions That Require Prior Authorization

Prescriptions for Ophthalmics, Anti-Inflammatories that meet any of the following conditions must be prior authorized:

1. A non-preferred Ophthalmic, Anti-Inflammatory.
2. An Ophthalmic, Anti-Inflammatory with a prescribed quantity that exceeds the quantity limit.

B. Review of Documentation for Medical Necessity

In evaluating a request for prior authorization of a prescription for an Ophthalmic, Anti-Inflammatory, the determination of whether the requested prescription is medically necessary will take into account whether the beneficiary:

1. For a non-preferred Ophthalmic, Anti-Inflammatory, has a documented history of therapeutic failure, intolerance, or contraindication of the preferred Ophthalmics, Anti-Inflammatories that are U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved or medically accepted for the beneficiary's diagnosis or indication; **AND**
2. For an intravitreal implant or injection, **all** of the following:
 - a. Is being prescribed the intravitreal implant or injection for an indication that is included in the FDA-approved package labeling OR a medically accepted indication,
 - b. Is age-appropriate according to FDA-approved package labeling, nationally recognized compendia, or peer-reviewed medical literature,
 - c. Is prescribed a dose and duration of therapy that is consistent with FDA-approved package labeling, nationally recognized compendia, or peer-reviewed medical literature,

- d. Is prescribed the intravitreal implant or injection by an ophthalmologist;

AND

3. If a prescription for an Ophthalmic, Anti-Inflammatory is in 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 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 an Ophthalmic, Anti-Inflammatory. 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.	10/2021