

Commercial/Healthcare Exchange Step Criteria

Effective: September 2015

Step Therapy Name: Topical Acne Medications

Step 1 Agent(s): See STEP Requirements in chart below*

Step 2 Agent(s): Acanya gel, Altreno (tretinoin 0.05% lotion), Avar (Sodium Sulfacetamide 9.5%), Avar cleansing pads 9.5-5%, Avar-E LS, Avar LS (Sodium Sulfacetamide 10%), Azelex 20% cream, BenzEfoam Ultra (Benzoyl Peroxide 9.8%), Clindagel 1% gel, Clindamycin phosphate 1% gel, once daily, Epiduo Forte (Benzoyl Peroxide 2.5%/Adapalene 0.3%), Epsolay (Benzoyl peroxide 5% topical cream), Onexton Gel (Benzoyl Peroxide 3.75%/Clindamycin 1.2%) , Plexion 9.8-4.8% cleanser, Rosula Wash (Sulfacetamide 10%), Sodium Sulfacetamide-Sulfur 8-4% cleanser, Twyneo Cream (benzoyl peroxide 3%/tretinoin 0.1%), Veltin 1.2%-0.025% gel, Winlevi 1% cream, ZMA Clear 9%/4.5% suspension

Medication/Class Description: Acne is a multifactorial inflammatory disease affecting the pilosebaceous follicles of the skin. The current understanding of acne pathogenesis is continuously evolving. Key pathogenic factors that play an important role in the development of acne are follicular hyperkeratinization, microbial colonization with Propionibacterium acnes, sebum production, and complex inflammatory mechanisms involving both innate and acquired immunity. In addition, studies have suggested that neuroendocrine regulatory mechanisms, diet, and genetic and nongenetic factors all may contribute to the multifactorial process of acne pathogenesis.

Required Medical Information:

1. Diagnosis
2. Previous therapies tried and failed

Age Restrictions: None

Prescriber Restrictions: None

Coverage Duration: 12 months

Exceptions for Stepped Medications:

DRUG	Diagnosis Required	STEP Requirements*
Acanya gel	Acne Vulgaris	2 (two) generic failures of acne products defined as: -Failure to improve acne symptoms
Altreno	Acne Vulgaris	2 generic topical products for acne
Avar	Acne vulgaris, acne rosacea, or seborrheic dermatitis	2 generic sulfacetamide products in the last 24 months
Avar 9.5-5% Cleansing Pads	Acne vulgaris, acne rosacea and seborrheic dermatitis.	2 generic sulfacetamide products in the last 24 months

Avar-E LS	Acne vulgaris, acne rosacea and seborrheic dermatitis.	2 (two) generic failures of acne products defined as: -Failure to improve symptoms
Avar LS	Acne vulgaris, acne rosacea, or seborrheic dermatitis	2 generic sulfacetamide products in the last 24 months
Azelex 20% cream	Acne vulgaris	2 (two) generic failures of acne products defined as: -Failure to improve acne symptoms
Benzefoam Ultra	Acne vulgaris	3 generic benzoyl peroxide products in the last 24 months
Clindagel 1% gel	Acne vulgaris	2 (two) generic failures of acne products defined as: -Failure to improve acne symptoms
Clindamycin Phosphate 1% gel, once daily	Acne vulgaris	2 (two) generic failures of acne products defined as: -Failure to improve acne symptoms
Epiduo Forte	Acne vulgaris	A benzoyl peroxide preparation AND an adapalene preparation in the last 24 months
Epsolay 5% cream	Rosacea, inflammatory lesions	3 generic benzoyl peroxide products in the last 24 months
Onexton Gel	Acne vulgaris	2 benzoyl peroxide AND 2 clindamycin products, or 2 combination products, in the last 24 months
Plexion 9.8-4.8% cleanser	Acne vulgaris, acne rosacea and seborrheic dermatitis.	2 generic sulfacetamide products in the last 24 months
Rosula Wash	Acne vulgaris, acne rosacea, or seborrheic dermatitis	2 generic sulfacetamide products in the last 24 months
Sodium Sulfacetamide-Sulfur 8-4% cleanser	Acne vulgaris, acne rosacea, or seborrheic dermatitis	2 (two) generic failures of acne products defined as: -Failure to improve acne symptoms
Twyneo Cream	Acne vulgaris	A trial and failure, or an intolerance or contraindication to generic Epiduo (adapalene/benzoyl peroxide)
Veltin 1.2%-0.025% gel	Acne vulgaris	2 (two) generic failures of acne products defined as: -Failure to improve acne symptoms
Winlevi 1% cream	Acne vulgaris	2 (two) generic failures of acne products defined as: -Failure to improve acne symptoms
ZMA Clear 9%/4.5% suspension	Acne vulgaris, acne rosacea and seborrheic dermatitis.	2 generic sulfacetamide products in the last 24 months

References:

1. Avar, Avar LS full prescribing information. Mission Pharmacal Company, San Antonio, TX
2. Epiduo Forte full prescribing information. Galderma Laboratories, L.P., Fort Worth, TX
3. Onexton Gel full prescribing information. Valeant Pharmaceuticals North America LLC, Bridgewater, NJ
4. Facts & Comparisons
5. Altreno full prescribing information. Bridgewater, NJ. Valeant Pharmaceuticals International, Inc.
6. Winlevi [package insert]. Greenwood Village, CO; Truven Health Analytics; December 2020.
7. Twyneo™ [package insert]. Whippany, NJ, Sol-Gel Technologies, Inc. Updated March 2022. Accessed April 5th, 2022.
8. Product Information: EPSOLAY® topical cream, benzoyl peroxide topical cream. Sol-Gel Technologies Inc, Whippany, NJ, 2022.

Policy Revision history

Rev #	Type of Change	Summary of Change	Sections Affected	Date
1	New Policy	New Policy	All	9/2015
2	Update		Old template	4/2016
3	Update		Old template	2/2017
4	Update		Old template	5/2018
5	Update		Old template	11/2018
6	Update		Old template	6/9/2021
7	Update	added clindamycin phosphate 1% gel, once daily	Step 2 Products affected	2/18/2022
8	Update	Twyneo added, transferred to new Template	Step 2 Products affected	5/12/2022
9	Update	Epsolay Added	Step 2 Products Affected	6/27/2022
10	Update	Added ZMA Clear 9%/4.5% suspension	Step 2 Products Affected	5/11/2023
11	Update	Added sodium sulfacetamide-sulfur 8-4% cleanser	Step 2 Products Affected	6/15/2023