



Commercial/Healthcare Exchange PA Criteria Effective: January 1, 2021

Prior Authorization: Acyclovir Topical

Products Affected: acyclovir 5% cream and ointment

Medication Description: Acyclovir is converted to acyclovir monophosphate by virus-specific thymidine kinase then further converted to acyclovir triphosphate by other cellular enzymes. Acyclovir triphosphate inhibits DNA synthesis and viral replication by competing with deoxyguanosine triphosphate for viral DNA polymerase and being incorporated into viral DNA.

Covered Uses:

Ointment:

1. Initial genital herpes
2. Non-life-threatening mucocutaneous Herpes simplex virus infections in immunocompromised patients

Cream:

1. Treatment of recurrent herpes labialis (cold sores) in immunocompetent children ≥ 12 years of age, adolescents, and adults

Exclusion Criteria: N/A

Required Medical Information:

1. Diagnosis
2. Previous medications tried/failed

Age Restrictions:

Cream: 12 years of age and older

Ointment: 18 years of age and older

Prescriber Restrictions: N/A

Coverage Duration: 1 year

Other Criteria:

Ointment:

1. Patient has a diagnosis of initial genital herpes **OR** non-life-threatening mucocutaneous Herpes simplex virus infection in an immunocompromised patient; **AND**
2. Patient has a documented intolerance to, contraindication, or treatment failure of at least TWO oral alternatives including: famciclovir, acyclovir, or valacyclovir

Cream:

1. Patient is immunocompetent and has a diagnosis of recurrent herpes labialis (cold sores); **AND**
2. Patient has a documented intolerance to, contraindication, or treatment failure of at least TWO oral alternatives including: famciclovir, acyclovir, or valacyclovir

January 2021



Confidential Information

This document is confidential and proprietary to ConnectiCare. Unauthorized use and distribution are prohibited.

Page 1 of 2

References:

1. Acyclovir 5% Ointment [Prescribing Information] South Plainfield, NJ: Cosette Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; November 2017. Accessed December 7, 2020.
2. Acyclovir 5% Cream [Prescribing Information] Bridgewater, NJ: Amneal Pharmaceuticals LLC; November 2020. Accessed December 7, 2020.
3. Usastine, R., Tinitigan, R. Nongenital Herpes Simplex Virus. *Am Fam Physician*. 2010 Nov 1;82(9):1075-1082. Accessed December 7, 2020. Available at: <https://www.aafp.org/afp/2010/1101/p1075.html>.
4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2015 Sexually Transmitted Diseases Treatment Guidelines: Genital HSV Infections. Accessed December 7, 2020. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/std/tg2015/herpes.htm>.
5. World Health Organization. WHO Guidelines for the Treatment of Genital Herpes Simplex Virus 2016 Recommendations. Accessed December 7, 2020. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK396233/>

Policy Revision History:

Rev #	Type of Change	Summary of Change	Sections Affected	Date
1	New Policy	New Policy	All	1/1/2021