

Commercial/Healthcare Exchange Step Criteria

Effective: January 1, 2020

Step Therapy Name: Ophthalmic Anti-Allergy

Step 1 Agent(s): azelastine eye drops, olopatadine 0.1% eye drops, olopatadine 0.2% eye drops, epinastine eye drops, cromolyn eye drops, bepotastine 1.5% eye drop

Step 2 Agent(s): Alomide, Alocril, Lastacaft, Pazeo, Emadine, Alrex, Bepreve, Zerviate

Medication/Class Description: Topical ophthalmic agents for the treatment of ocular allergy have a more rapid onset of action when compared to oral antihistamines and are generally better tolerated. Topical ophthalmic antihistamines do not cause significant systemic side effects and generally do not contribute to ocular dryness.

Required Medical Information:

1. Diagnosis
2. Previous therapies tried/failed

Age Restrictions: N/A

Prescriber Restrictions: N/A

Coverage Duration: 12 months

Exceptions for Stepped Medications:

- A. Patient has had a trial and failure of at least TWO Step 1 Agents, defined as:
 - a. Failure to improve symptoms of allergic conjunctivitis; **OR**
- B. Patient has an intolerance or contraindication to at least TWO different Step 1 Agents, defined as (but not limited to):
 - a. Allergic reaction
 - b. Adverse drug reactions

References:

1. Product Information: BEPREVE(TM) ophthalmic solution, bepotastine besilate ophthalmic solution. ISTA Pharmaceuticals, Inc, Irvine, CA, 2009.
2. ALOMIDE(R) ophthalmic solution, lodoxamide tromethamine ophthalmic solution. Alcon Laboratories, Inc., Fort Worth, TX, 2003.
3. Product Information: Alocril(TM), nedocromil. Allergan, Irvine, CA, USA, 2000.
4. PAZEO(TM) ophthalmic solution, olopatadine HCl 0.7% ophthalmic solution. Alcon Laboratories, Inc. (per manufacturer), Fort Worth, TX, 2015.
5. EMADINE(R) ophthalmic solution, emedastine difumarate ophthalmic solution. Alcon Laboratories, Inc., Fort Worth, TX, 2003.
6. Product Information: ALREX(TM) ophthalmic suspension, loteprednol etabonate ophthalmic suspension. Bausch & Lomb Pharmaceuticals Inc, Tampa, FL, 1998.
7. An algorithm for the management of allergic conjunctivitis. Allergy & Asthma Proceedings. 2013;34(5):408-420.

8. Product Information: ZERVIAE(TM) ophthalmic solution, cetirizine ophthalmic solution. Eyevance Pharmaceuticalls LLC (per FDA), Fort Worth, TX, 2020.

Policy Revision history

Rev #	Type of Change	Summary of Change	Sections Affected	Date
1	New Policy	New Policy	All	10/21/2019
2	Update	Addition of new target agent: Zerviate	Step 2 Agent(s)	3/13/2020
3	Update	Addition of bepotastine 1.5% eye drop as a Step 1 agent	Step 1 Agent(s)	3/18/2022

