

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, Alrex, Bepreve, Lastacraft, 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
- C. Or if request is for Alomide, approve if patient has **ONE** of the following indications **AND** trial and failure of cromolyn eye drops:
 - a. Vernal Keratitis
 - b. Vernal conjunctivitis
 - c. Vernal keratoconjunctivitis

References:

1. Product Information: BEPREVE™ ophthalmic solution, bepotastine besilate ophthalmic solution. ISTA Pharmaceuticals, Inc, Irvine, CA, 2009.
2. ALOMIDE® ophthalmic solution, lodoxamide tromethamine ophthalmic solution. Alcon Laboratories, Inc., Fort Worth, TX, 2003.
3. Product Information: Alocril™, nedocromil. Allergan, Irvine, CA, USA, 2000.
4. PAZEO™ ophthalmic solution, olopatadine HCl 0.7% ophthalmic solution. Alcon Laboratories, Inc. (per manufacturer), Fort Worth, TX, 2015.

Last Rev. April 2024



Confidential Information

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

5. EMADINE® ophthalmic solution, emedastine difumarate ophthalmic solution. Alcon Laboratories, Inc., Fort Worth, TX, 2003.
6. Product Information: ALREX™ 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: ZERVIA™ 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
4	Update	Removal of Pazeo and Emadine (discontinued products); called out Alomide- separated the indications and only stepped through cromolyn	Step 2 Agents	3/25/2022
5	Update	Addition of loteprednol etabonate 0.2% ophthalmic suspension to Step 2 Agent. Removal of Alomide, Alocril, , Pazeo, Emadine from Step 2 agents	Step 1 and Step 2 Agent(s)	4/1/2024