

Coverage of Acne Medications for Members < 18 years of age

Created: March 14, 2022

Reviewed:

Includes:

Preferred medications:

Differin® 0.1% gel 15 grams *adapalene*

Clindamycin 0.1% solution 60 grams

**All other formulations prescribed for treatment of acne will be considered non-formulary.*

** Benzoyl peroxide 2.5%, 5% or 10% gel #60 grams is a covered benefit when billed with doxycycline. Quantity limit of #180 grams per 12-months.*

GUIDELINE FOR USE:

1. Does the member have moderate to severe acne?
 - a. If yes, go to 2.
 - b. If no, deny as below the Oregon Health Plan funded line.

2. Has the member trialed and failed use of first step agents (doxycycline with or without benzoyl peroxide) or has clinical rationale been submitted explaining why first step agents cannot be utilized?
 - a. If yes, then approve for 90 days.
 - b. If no, deny as not meeting criteria. Trial of doxycycline with or without benzoyl peroxide is required or clinical rationale to why first step agents cannot be used.

Renewal Criteria:

1. Has condition improved and does documentation support continued therapy? (*Of note - topical therapies can accomplish continued efficacy months after discontinuation of systemic antibiotics*).
 - a. If yes, then approve for 90 days.
 - b. If no, deny as criteria not met. Please submit current chart note evaluating response to requested medication.

Rationale: To ensure there is a funded condition, treatments are used appropriately, and formulary alternatives have been utilized prior to advancing treatment for acne in member under the age of 18.

FDA Approved Indication:

Differin: Treatment of acne vulgaris.

Mechanism of Action:

Retinoid-like compound which is a modulator of cellular differentiation, keratinization, and inflammatory processes, all of which represent important features in the pathology of acne vulgaris

Dosing: Acne vulgaris, treatment: Children ≥ 7 years and Adolescents: Limited data available in ages < 12 years.

Topical: Apply once daily; cream, gel, or solution should be applied in the evening (at bedtime). **Note:** During the initial 2 weeks of therapy, it may appear that acne worsens; full effect may take up to 8 to 12 weeks of therapy.

Contraindication:

Hypersensitivity to adapalene or any component of the formulation.

FDA Approved Indication:

Clindamycin: Acne vulagris

Mechanism of Action:

Reversibly binds to 50S ribosomal subunits preventing peptide bond formation thus inhibiting bacterial protein synthesis; bacteriostatic or bactericidal depending on drug concentration, infection site, and organism.

Dosing:

Acne: Topical: Gel (Cleocin T, ClindaMax), pledget, lotion, solution: Apply a thin film twice daily.

Contraindication:

Hypersensitivity to clindamycin, lincomycin, or any component of the formulation; history of antibiotic-associated colitis, regional enteritis, ulcerative colitis.

References:

1. Up To Date Acne vulgaris: Management of moderate to severe acne. Literature review current through: Feb 2022. This topic last updated: Feb 17, 2021. Accessed March 14, 2022.
2. Up To Date Acne vulgaris: Overview of management. Literature review current through: Feb 2022. This topic last updated: Oct 26, 2021. Accessed March 14, 2022.
3. Clindamycin solution prescribing information.
4. Adapalene prescribing information.
5. Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology. Guidelines of care for the management of acne vulgaris. [https://www.jaad.org/article/S0190-9622\(15\)02614-6/fulltext#secsectitle0055](https://www.jaad.org/article/S0190-9622(15)02614-6/fulltext#secsectitle0055).
6. American Academy of Dermatology Association. <https://www.aad.org/member/clinical-quality/guidelines/acne>.