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**5.99.11**

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| <b>Section:</b>    | Prescription Drugs     | <b>Effective Date:</b>       | April 1, 2021 |
| <b>Subsection:</b> | Miscellaneous Products | <b>Original Policy Date:</b> | May 12, 2014  |
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**Last Review Date:** March 12, 2021

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## Corticosteroid Powders

### Description

#### Clobetasol Powder, Fluticasone Powder, Mometasone Powder

#### Background

Corticosteroid medications demonstrate potent anti-inflammatory activity that decrease inflammation through an unknown mechanism of action. However, corticosteroids are thought to act by affecting cellular signaling and immune function, which leads to the inhibition of potent inflammatory mediators. Topical corticosteroids can be absorbed from normal intact skin. Inflammation and/or other disease processes in the skin increase percutaneous absorption (1-3).

Clobetasol is commercially available in the following dosage forms: topical foam, shampoo, topical cream, topical gel, topical lotion, topical ointment, and topical solution.

Fluticasone is commercially available in the following dosage forms: topical cream, topical lotion, topical ointment, nasal spray and various aerosols and powders for inhalation.

Mometasone is commercially available in the following dosage forms: topical cream, topical lotion, topical ointment, nasal spray and as a powder for inhalation.

#### Regulatory Status

FDA approved topical indications: Topical corticosteroids are indicated for the relief of inflammatory and pruritic manifestations of corticosteroid-responsive dermatoses (1-3).

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## Related policies

### Policy

*This policy statement applies to clinical review performed for pre-service (Prior Approval, Precertification, Advanced Benefit Determination, etc.) and/or post-service claims.*

Corticosteroid powders may be considered **medically necessary** in a topical formulation for the treatment of inflammatory and pruritic manifestations of corticosteroid-responsive dermatoses and if the conditions indicated below are met.

Corticosteroid powders may be considered **investigational** for all other formulations and for all other indications.

## Prior-Approval Requirements

### Diagnosis

Patient must have the following:

Inflammatory and pruritic manifestations of corticosteroid-responsive dermatoses (including but not limited to hives, rash, eczema, dermatitis)

### AND ALL of the following:

1. The requested dosage form is for topical use
2. The patient must have tried and failed and/or have an intolerance to an existing commercially available topical product
3. All of the active ingredients in the formulation are prescription (RX) only products and are FDA approved for inflammatory and pruritic dermatoses
4. The concentration of the final product will not exceed the FDA approved limit
5. It is not being used for cosmetic purposes (including but not limited to anti-aging, anti-wrinkle, hair growth/removal, scar prevention, scar diminishing, skin lightening/tanning)

## Prior – Approval *Renewal* Requirements

Same as above

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## Policy Guidelines

### Pre - PA Allowance

None

### Prior - Approval Limits

**Duration** 6 months

### Prior – Approval *Renewal* Limits

Same as above

## Rationale

### Summary

Topical corticosteroids have anti-inflammatory, antipruritic, and vasoconstrictive properties. Topical corticosteroids are FDA-approved for the relief of inflammatory and pruritic manifestations of corticosteroid-responsive dermatoses (1-3).

Prior authorization is required to ensure the safe, clinically appropriate and cost effective use of corticosteroid powders while maintaining optimal therapeutic outcomes.

### References

1. Clobex [package insert]. Fort Worth, TX: Galderma Laboratories, L.P.; February 2018.
2. Cutivate [package insert]. Melville, NY: PharmaDerm; July 2015.
3. Elocon [package insert]. Whitehouse Station, NJ: Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp.; May 2018.

## Policy History

| Date           | Action   |
|----------------|--|
| May 2014       | New addition to PA   |
| September 2014 | Annual Review and update   |
| September 2015 | Annual editorial review and reference update   |
| December 2016  | Annual editorial review and reference update<br>Policy number change from 5.11.11 to 5.99.11 |
| June 2017      | Annual review and reference update   |
| June 2018      | Annual editorial review and reference update   |

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| March 2019 | Addition of Clobetasol Powder and combined with policy 5.70.56 Mometasone Powder. Renamed policy Corticosteroid Powders. Added requirement that the requested dosage form is for topical use |
| June 2019  | Annual review  |
| June 2020  | Annual review  |
| March 2021 | Annual review  |

## Keywords

**This policy was approved by the FEP® Pharmacy and Medical Policy Committee on March 12, 2021 and is effective on April 1, 2021.**