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).
**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.

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
Prescription Drugs

Effective Date: July 1, 2019

Miscellaneous Products

Original Policy Date: May 12, 2014

Corticosteroid Powders

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Policy Guidelines

Pre - PA Allowance

None

Prior - Approval Limits

Duration 6 months

Prior – Approval Renewal Limits

Duration 6 months

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


Policy History

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 2014</td>
<td>New addition to PA</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 2014</td>
<td>Annual Review and update</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 2015</td>
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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

**Keywords**

This policy was approved by the FEP® Pharmacy and Medical Policy Committee on June 20, 2019 and is effective on July 1, 2019.