Topical Rosacea Agents

Description

Mirvaso (brimonidine), Rhofade (oxymetazoline)

Background
Mirvaso (brimonidine) and Rhofade (oxymetazoline) are alpha adrenergic agonists used on the skin for rosacea. Mirvaso (brimonidine) and Rhofade (oxymetazoline) act as vasoconstrictors to treat persistent facial erythema associated with rosacea. Persistent facial redness is cited as the most common sign of rosacea, and may resemble a flushing or sunburn that does not go away. Vasoconstriction is the narrowing of the blood vessels resulting from contraction of the muscular wall of the vessels, in particular the large arteries and small arterioles. Alpha-adrenergic agonists, as a class, may impact blood flow to area to reduce the flushing and redness (1-2).

Regulatory Status
FDA-approved indications: Mirvaso and Rhofade are indicated for the topical treatment of persistent (non-transient) facial erythema of rosacea (1-2).

Safety and effectiveness of Mirvaso and Rhofade in pediatric patients under 18 years of age has not been established (1-2).

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.
Mirvaso and Rhofade may be considered medically necessary in patients 18 years of age or older with rosacea and if the conditions indicated below are met.

Mirvaso and Rhofade are considered investigational in patients less than 18 years of age and for all other indications.

**Prior-Approval Requirements**

**Age**
18 years of age or older

**Diagnosis**
Patient must have the following:

Rosacea

**AND ALL** of the following:
1. Completion of a baseline erythema assessment
2. Inadequate treatment response, intolerance, or contraindication to **ONE** of the following:
   a. Doxycycline
   b. Topical metronidazole
   c. Finacea
3. **NO** dual therapy with other topical alpha adrenergic agonists

**Prior – Approval Renewal Requirements**

**Age**
18 years of age or older

**Diagnosis**
Patient must have the following:

Rosacea

**AND ALL** of the following:
1. Re-evaluation of erythema for improvement
2. **NO** dual therapy with other topical alpha adrenergic agonists

**Policy Guidelines**
Pre - PA Allowance
None

Prior - Approval Limits

Duration 6 months

Prior – Approval Renewal Limits

Duration 12 months

Rationale

Summary
Mirvaso and Rhofade are alpha adrenergic agonists used on the skin for rosacea. Mirvaso and Rhofade helps with the facial erythema, or reddening of the skin, that occurs in patients with rosacea. Safety and effectiveness of Mirvaso and Rhofade in pediatric patients under 18 years of age has not been established (1-2).

Prior approval is required to ensure the safe, clinically appropriate and cost effective use of Mirvaso and Rhofade while maintaining optimal therapeutic outcomes.

References

Policy History

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<td>July 2016</td>
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<td>Addition of Rhofade to PA and completion of a baseline erythema assessment and no dual therapy with other topical alpha adrenergic agonists</td>
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Keywords

This policy was approved by the FEP® Pharmacy and Medical Policy Committee on September 13, 2019 and is effective on October 1, 2019.