

STEP THERAPY POLICY

- POLICY:** Ophthalmic – Glaucoma – Alpha-Adrenergic Agonists Step Therapy Policy
- Alphagan® P (brimonidine tartrate 0.1% ophthalmic solution; 0.15% ophthalmic solution – Allergan, generic)
 - Apraclonidine 0.5% ophthalmic solution (generic only)
 - Brimonidine tartrate 0.2% ophthalmic solution (generic only)
 - Iopidine® (apraclonidine 1% ophthalmic solution – Alcon)

REVIEW DATE: 10/04/2023

OVERVIEW

The brimonidine tartrate ophthalmic products (0.1%, 0.15%, and 0.2% strengths) are indicated for the **reduction of elevated intraocular pressure (IOP)** in patients with open-angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension.¹⁻³ Apraclonidine 0.5% ophthalmic solution is indicated as short-term adjunctive therapy in patients on maximally tolerated medical therapy who require additional **IOP reduction**.⁴ Patients on maximally tolerated medical therapy who are treated with apraclonidine 0.5% ophthalmic solution to delay surgery should have frequent follow-up examinations and treatment should be discontinued if the IOP rises significantly. Iopidine 1% is indicated to **control or prevent post-surgical elevations in IOP that occur in patients after argon laser trabeculoplasty, argon laser iridotomy or Nd:YAG posterior capsulotomy**.⁵

Brimonidine 0.1% ophthalmic solution and brimonidine 0.15% ophthalmic solution (generics for Alphagan P) contain the preservative Purite® 0.005%.^{1,2} Brimonidine 0.2% ophthalmic solution contains the preservative benzalkonium chloride 0.005%.³ Iopidine 1% and apraclonidine 0.5% ophthalmic solution contain the preservative benzalkonium chloride 0.01%.^{4,5}

POLICY STATEMENT

This program has been developed to encourage the use of a Step 1 Product prior to the use of a Step 2 Product. If the Step Therapy rule is not met for a Step 2 Product at the point of service, coverage will be determined by the Step Therapy criteria below. All approvals are provided for 1 year in duration.

Automation: A patient with a of one Step 1 Product within the 130-day look-back period is excluded from Step Therapy.

Step 1: generic apraclonidine 0.5% ophthalmic solution, generic brimonidine tartrate 0.1% ophthalmic solution, generic brimonidine tartrate 0.15% ophthalmic solution, generic brimonidine tartrate 0.2% ophthalmic solution

Step 2: Alphagan P 0.1%, Alphagan P 0.15%, Iopidine 1%

CRITERIA

1. If the patient has tried one Step 1 Product, approve a Step 2 Product.

10/04/2023

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2. If the patient is undergoing argon laser trabeculoplasty, argon laser iridotomy or Nd:YAG posterior capsulotomy, approve Iopidine 1%.
3. No other exceptions are recommended.

REFERENCES

1. Brimonidine 0.1% ophthalmic solution [prescribing information]. Bedminster, NJ: Alembic; August 2023.
2. Brimonidine 0.1% ophthalmic solution [prescribing information]. Weston, FL: Apotex; December 2021.
3. Brimonidine 0.2% ophthalmic solution [prescribing information]. Gurnee, IL: Akorn; May 2022.
4. Apraclonidine 0.5% ophthalmic solution [prescribing information]. Gurnee, IL: Akorn; January 2022.
5. Iopidine® 1% ophthalmic solution [prescribing information]. Nashville, TN: Harrow Eye; February 2023..