

## STEP THERAPY POLICY

- POLICY:** Ophthalmic – Glaucoma – Beta-Adrenergic Blockers Step Therapy Policy
- Betaxolol 0.5% ophthalmic solution (generic only)
  - Betimol® (timolol 0.25% and 0.5% ophthalmic solution – Akorn)
  - Carteolol 1% ophthalmic solution (generic only)
  - Istalol® (timolol maleate 0.5% ophthalmic solution – Bausch + Lomb, generic)
  - Levobunolol 0.5% ophthalmic solution (generic only)
  - Metipranolol 0.3% ophthalmic solution (generic only)
  - Timoptic® (timolol maleate 0.25% and 0.5% ophthalmic solution – Bausch + Lomb, generic)
  - Timoptic® in Ocudose® (timolol maleate 0.25% and 0.5% ophthalmic solution – Bausch + Lomb [0.5% strength is available generically])
  - Timoptic XE® (timolol maleate 0.25% and 0.5% ophthalmic gel forming solution – Bausch + Lomb, generic)

**REVIEW DATE:** 09/28/2022

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### OVERVIEW

The beta-adrenergic blocker ophthalmic products are indicated for the treatment of **elevated intraocular pressure (IOP)** in patients with ocular hypertension or open-angle glaucoma.<sup>1-9</sup>

Beta-adrenergic blockers generally lower IOP by 20% to 30%.<sup>10</sup> The beta-adrenergic blockers reduce IOP to a similar degree, although betaxolol lowers IOP to a lesser extent than the nonselective agents (e.g., timolol maleate, levobunolol, carteolol, metipranolol ophthalmic solutions).

Timoptic in Ocudose is a preservative-free product. All of the other listed ophthalmic beta-blockers are preserved with benzalkonium chloride (BAK), except timolol gel forming solution, which is preserved with benzododecinium bromide.<sup>1-9</sup>

### 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 betaxolol 0.5% ophthalmic solution, generic carteolol 1% ophthalmic solution, generic levobunolol 0.25% and 0.5% ophthalmic solution, generic metipranolol 0.3% ophthalmic solution, generic timolol maleate 0.25% and 0.5% ophthalmic gel forming solution, generic timolol maleate 0.25% and 0.5% ophthalmic solution timolol maleate 0.5% ophthalmic solution (generic to Timoptic in Ocudose)

**Step 2:** Betagan, Betimol, Istalol, Timoptic, Timoptic in Ocudose, Timoptic XE

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## CRITERIA

1. If the patient has tried one Step 1 Product, approve a Step 2 Product.
2. If the patient has a known benzalkonium chloride or benzododecinium bromide sensitivity AND a known sensitivity to other ophthalmic preservatives AND cannot use timolol maleate 0.5% ophthalmic solution (generic to Timoptic in Ocudose), approve Timoptic in Ocudose 0.25%.
3. No other exceptions are recommended.

## REFERENCES

1. Istalol<sup>®</sup> ophthalmic solution [prescribing information]. Tampa, FL: Bausch + Lomb; March 2022.
2. Betagan<sup>®</sup> ophthalmic solution [prescribing information]. Madison, NJ: Allergan; September 2021.
3. Timoptic<sup>®</sup> ophthalmic solution [prescribing information]. Bridgewater, NJ: Bausch + Lomb; April 2022.
4. Timoptic XE<sup>®</sup> ophthalmic gel forming solution [prescribing information]. Bridgewater, NJ: Bausch + Lomb; March 2022.
5. Betaxolol 0.5% ophthalmic solution [prescribing information]. Lake Forest, IL: Akorn; June 2016.
6. Carteolol 1% ophthalmic solution [prescribing information]. Fort Worth, TX: Alcon; August 2021.
7. Metipranolol ophthalmic solution [prescribing information]. Fort Worth, TX: Falcon; August 2011.
8. Timoptic<sup>®</sup> in Ocudose<sup>®</sup> ophthalmic solution [prescribing information]. Bridgewater, NJ: Bausch + Lomb; April 2022.
9. Betimol<sup>®</sup> ophthalmic solution [prescribing information]. Lake Forest IL: Akorn; July 2018.
10. Fiscella RG, Lesar TS, Edward D. Glaucoma. In: DiPiro JT, Talbert RL, Yee GC, et al., (Eds). *Pharmacotherapy - A Pathophysiologic Approach*. 7th ed. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill. 2008:1551-1564.