

STEP THERAPY POLICY

POLICY: Topical Acne – Cleansers Step Therapy Policy

Note: This is not an inclusive list.

- Avar™ (sodium sulfacetamide/sulfur 9.5%/5% cleansing pads – Mission)
- Avar™ LS (sodium sulfacetamide/sulfur 10%/2% cleansing pads – Mission)
- BP 10-1 Wash (sodium sulfacetamide 10%/sulfur 1% wash – Acella, generic)
- BP Cleansing Wash (sulfacetamide 10%/sulfur 4%/urea 10% – Acella, generic)
- Pacnex® 7% Topical Wash (benzoyl peroxide 7% topical wash – Medimetriks, generic)
- Pacnex® HP (benzoyl peroxide 7% cleansing pads – Medimetriks)
- Pacnex® LP (benzoyl peroxide 4.25% cleansing pads – Medimetriks)
- Plexion® (sulfacetamide/sulfur 9.8/4.8% cleanser; sulfacetamide/sulfur 9.8/4.8% cleansing pads – Brava)
- Rosula® (sodium sulfacetamide/sulfur 10%/4.5% wash, 10%-5% cleansing cloths – Avion)
- Sulfacleanse® 8-4 Suspension (sodium sulfacetamide 8%/sulfur 4% – Prugen, generic)
- Sumadan® (sodium sulfacetamide/sulfur 9%/4.5% wash – Medimetriks)
- Sumadan® XLT (sodium sulfacetamide/sulfur 9%/4.5% wash – Medimetriks)
- Sumaxin® (sodium sulfacetamide/sulfur 9%/4% cleansing pads – Medimetriks, generic)
- Sumaxin® (sodium sulfacetamide/sulfur 9%/4% wash – Medimetriks)
- Sumaxin® CP (sodium sulfacetamide/sulfur 10%/4% Kit – Medimetriks)
- Sumaxin® TS (sodium sulfacetamide/sulfur 8%/4% topical suspension – Medimetriks)

REVIEW DATE: 12/20/2023

OVERVIEW

Many topical products are available for the **treatment of acne vulgaris**.^{1,2} Benzoyl peroxide-containing products are generally indicated for the treatment and prevention of mild to moderate acne vulgaris. Sulfacetamide sodium have antimicrobial properties and sulfur have antiseptic properties which aid in the removal of keratin and drying of the skin and are available in a variety of strengths and vehicles. These products (sulfacetamide/sulfur) are additionally used for acne rosacea and seborrheic dermatitis. Acne treatment guidelines do not prefer any of the brand name products over similar generic products.³

The topical products for treatment of acne are available in multiple formulations.^{1,2} Creams and lotions may be best for dry or sensitive skin and gels or foams may be best for more oily skin (although newer aqueous gels may also be suitable for sensitive skin).³

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.

Note: For the purpose of this policy, a topical cleanser is defined as a cleanser, solution, liquid, wash, foaming cloth, cleansing cloth, or soap.

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

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Step 1: Generic prescription topical acne cleansers containing benzoyl peroxide or sulfacetamide/sulfur

Note: This is not an inclusive list.

- Benzoyl Peroxide 10% Topical Wash
- Sodium Sulfacetamide/Sulfur 10%-4% Cleansing Pads
- Sodium Sulfacetamide 10% and Sulfur 2% Topical Cleanser
- Sulfacetamide Sodium/Sulfur 10%-5% Topical Cleanser
- Sodium Sulfacetamide-Sulfur 9.8%-4.8% Topical Cleanser

Step 2: Branded prescription topical acne cleansers containing benzoyl peroxide or sulfacetamide/sulfur

Note: This is not an inclusive list.

- Avar™
- Avar™ LS
- BP 10-1 Wash
- BP Cleansing Wash
- Pacnex® 7% Topical Wash
- Pacnex® HP Cleansing Pads
- Pacnex® LP Cleansing Pads
- Plexion® Cleanser
- Plexion® Cleansing Pads
- Rosula®
- Sulfacleanse® 8-4 Suspension
- Sumadan®
- Sumadan® XLT
- Sumaxin®
- Sumaxin® CP Kit
- Sumaxin® TS Topical Suspension

CRITERIA

1. If the patient has tried one Step 1 Product, approve a Step 2 Product.
2. No other exceptions are recommended.

REFERENCES

1. Facts and Comparisons® Online. Wolters Kluwer Health, Inc.; 2023. Available at: <https://fco.factsandcomparisons.com/lco/action/home>. Accessed on December 14, 2023. Search terms: benzoyl peroxide, clindamycin, sulfacetamide/sulfur.
2. Clinical Pharmacology © 2023. Available at <https://www.clinicalkey.com/pharmacology/>. Accessed on December 14, 2023. Search Terms: benzoyl peroxide and sulfur/sulfacetamide.
3. Thiboutot DM, Dreno B, Abanmi A, et al. Practical management of acne for clinicians: an international consensus from the Global Alliance to Improve Outcomes in Acne. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2018;78:S1-S23.

