



**UnitedHealthcare Individual & Family ACA Marketplace Plans
Clinical Pharmacy Program Guidelines for Topical Steroids**

Program	Step Therapy
Medication	Topical Steroids: Flurandrenolide lotion 0.05% (generic Cordran), Nolix (flurandrenolide) lotion 0.05% Flurandrenolide ointment 0.05% (generic Cordran), Clocortolone pivalate cream 0.1% (generic Cloderm), Halcinonide cream 0.1% (generic Halog)
Issue Date	9/2020
Pharmacy and Therapeutics Approval Date	6/2022
Effective Date	8/2022

1. Background:

Topical steroids are commonly prescribed for the treatment of rash, eczema, and dermatitis. Topical steroids have anti-inflammatory properties, and are classified into different potency classes based on their vasoconstriction abilities. A vasoconstriction bioassay provides potency measurements that correlate with clinical potency. There are numerous topical steroid products.

Class 1: Super Potent	Class 5: Lower Mid-Strength
Class 2: Potent	Class 6: Mild
Class 3: Upper Mid-Strength	Class 7: Least Potent
Class 4: Mid-Strength	

Step Therapy programs are utilized to encourage the use of lower cost alternatives for certain therapeutic classes. This program requires a member to try one or two lower cost alternative topical steroids before providing coverage for higher cost topical steroids.

2. Coverage Criteria^a:

<p>A. Flurandrenolide lotion 0.05% and Nolix lotion 0.05% will be approved based on the following criterion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> History of failure, contraindication or intolerance to two generic alternative medications in the lower-mid potency class:

Potency Class	Alternative Medications
Lower-mid (group V)	-betamethasone dipropionate lotion 0.05% -betamethasone valerate lotion 0.1% -desonide cream 0.05% -desonide lotion 0.05% -desonide ointment 0.05% -fluticasone propionate cream 0.05% -hydrocortisone valerate 0.2% cream -prednicarbate 0.1% cream -prednicarbate 0.1% ointment -triamcinolone acetonide cream 0.025% -triamcinolone acetonide 0.1% lotion -triamcinolone acetonide 0.025% ointment
<p>B. Flurandrenolide ointment 0.05% or clocortolone pivalate cream 0.1% will be approved based on the following criterion:</p> <p>1. History of failure, contraindication or intolerance to one generic alternative medications in the medium potency class:</p>	
Medium (group IV)	-fluocinolone acetonide 0.025% ointment -hydrocortisone valerate 0.2% ointment -triamcinolone acetonide cream 0.1% -triamcinolone acetonide ointment 0.1% -mometasone furoate cream 0.1% -mometasone furoate solution 0.1% -fluocinonide emulsified base cream 0.05% -desoximetasone cream, ointment 0.05% -betamethasone dipropionate cream 0.05%
<p>Authorization will be issued for 12 months.</p>	
<p>C. Halcinonide cream 0.1% will be approved based on the following criterion:</p> <p>1. History of failure, contraindication or intolerance to two alternative medications in the high potency class:</p>	
Potency class	Alternative Medications
High (group II)	-betamethasone dipropionate ointment 0.05% -betamethasone dipropionate augmented cream 0.05% -desoximetasone cream, ointment 0.25% -diflorasone diacetate emollient base cream 0.05%

	-fluocinonide cream, gel, ointment, solution 0.05%
<p>Authorization will be issued for 12 months.</p> <p>^a State mandates may apply. Any federal regulatory requirements and the member specific benefit plan coverage may also impact coverage criteria. Other policies and utilization management programs may apply.</p>	

3. Additional Clinical Rules:

- Notwithstanding Coverage Criteria, UnitedHealthcare may approve initial and re-authorization based solely on previous claim/medication history, diagnosis codes (ICD-10) and/or claim logic. Use of automated approval and re-approval processes varies by program and/or therapeutic class.
- Supply limits may be in place.

4. References:

1. Tadicherla, Sujatha, et al. "Topical corticosteroids in dermatology." Journal of drugs in dermatology 8.12 (2009):1093-1105.
2. Psoriasis.org. 2019. Topical steroid potency chart - National Psoriasis Foundation. [online] Available at: <https://www.psoriasis.org/potency-chart/> [Accessed: 5 May 2022].
3. Uptodate.com. 2020. Topical corticosteroids. [online] Available at: https://www.uptodate.com/contents/image?imageKey=DERM%2F62402&topicKey=DERM%2F5565&search=topical%20corticosteroid%20potency&rank=1~150&source=see_link [Accessed: 5 May 2022].
4. Menter, Alan, et al. "Guidelines of care for the management of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. Section 3. Guidelines of care for the management and treatment of psoriasis with topical therapies." Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology 60.4 (2009):643-659.

Program	Step Therapy – Topical Steroids
Change Control	
Date	Change
8/2014	New program.
7/2015	Annual Review. Moved fluticasone to Step 2 in the lower-mid potency class. Updated references.
8/2015	Administrative update. Added Maryland Continuation of Care

10/2015	Moved fluticasone cream to step 1 agent in the lower-mid potency class. Added brand name Cutivate to fluticasone lotion.
3/2016	Added Cordran Ointment to the Step 2 medications in medium potency class with fluocinolone acetonide as Step 1 agent. Revised lower-mid potency to require trial and failure of two Step 1 drugs. Added California coverage information.
7/2016	Added HCR gender dysphoria language. Updated references. Added Indiana and West Virginia coverage information.
1/2017	Added Ultravate to the Step 2 medications in the super-potent class. State mandate reference language updated. State mandate reference language updated.
2/2018	Annual review. Updated references. No changes to criteria.
2/2019	Added Bryhali to the Step 2 medications in the super-potent class.
3/2020	Annual review. Updated references.
10/2020	Revised policy for application to UnitedHealthcare Value & Balance Exchange for 1/2021 implementation, removing brands and adding applicable generic alternatives.
11/2020	Updated ST Description to align build file and set up for UHC Value & Balance Exchange for 1/2021 implementation.
2/2021	Corrected track/change removal errors for fluocinonide emulsified base cream 0.05% and desoximetasone cream, ointment 0.05% alternatives.
6/2021	Separated criteria for medium potency medications to match background. Updated references.
9/2021	Combined topical steroids step therapy policies. Removed markets in scope box, updated brand/generic language to align with guidance for 2022
6/2022	Annual review. Updated references, no changes to clinical criteria.