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Policy Number: C4962-A

Diclofenac Topical

PRODUCTS AFFECTED

diclofenac topical gel, diclofenac topical Solution, Diclofono (diclofenac), Pennsaid (diclofenac sodium) topical Solution, Klofensaid II (diclofenac) topical solution, Solaraze (diclofenac), Voltaren Gel (diclofenac), diclofenac epolamine topical patch, Flector (diclofenac epolamine) topical patch, Licart (diclofenac epolamine) topical patch

COVERAGE POLICY

Coverage for services, procedures, medical devices, and drugs are dependent upon benefit eligibility as outlined in the member's specific benefit plan. This Coverage Guideline must be read in its entirety to determine coverage eligibility, if any.

This Coverage Guideline provides information related to coverage determinations only and does not imply that a service or treatment is clinically appropriate or inappropriate. The provider and the member are responsible for all decisions regarding the appropriateness of care. Providers should provide Molina Healthcare complete medical rationale when requesting any exceptions to these guidelines.

Documentation Requirements:

Molina Healthcare reserves the right to require that additional documentation be made available as part of its coverage determination; quality improvement; and fraud; waste and abuse prevention processes.

Documentation required may include, but is not limited to, patient records, test results and credentials of the provider ordering or performing a drug or service. Molina Healthcare may deny reimbursement or take additional appropriate action if the documentation provided does not support the initial determination that the drugs or services were medically necessary, not investigational or experimental, and otherwise within the scope of benefits afforded to the member, and/or the documentation demonstrates a pattern of billing or other practice that is inappropriate or excessive.

DIAGNOSIS:

Actinic keratoses (AK), Osteoarthritis, Mild or moderate pain

REQUIRED MEDICAL INFORMATION:

This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. If a drug within this policy receives an updated FDA label within the last 180 days, medical necessity for the member will be reviewed using the updated FDA label information along with state and federal requirements, benefit being administered and formulary preferencing. Coverage will be determined on a case-by-case basis until the criteria can be updated through Molina Healthcare, Inc. clinical governance. Additional information may be required on a case-by-case basis to allow for adequate review.

A. ACTINIC KERATOSIS (DICLOFENAC 3% GEL ONLY):

1. Documented diagnosis of actinic keratosis with active lesions
AND
2. Documentation of treatment failure, serious side effects or clinical contraindication to
BOTH topical fluorouracil cream and imiquimod cream

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Drug and Biologic Coverage Criteria

AND

3. Documentation member has tried or is not a suitable candidate for laser surgery, electrosurgery, cryosurgery, chemosurgery or surgical curettement for current lesions

AND

4. Prescriber attests to (or the clinical reviewer has found that) the member not having any FDA labeled contraindications that haven't been addressed by the prescriber within the documentation submitted for review [Contraindications to diclofenac 3% include: hypersensitivity to diclofenac, benzyl alcohol, polyethylene glycol monomethyl ether 350 and/or hyaluronate sodium, in the setting of coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) surgery, patients with a recent MI unless the benefits are expected to outweigh the risk of recurrent CV thrombotic events, patients with severe heart failure unless the benefits are expected to outweigh the risk of worsening heart failure, applying to open wounds or infections or peeling skin, late pregnancy]

B. OSTEOARTHRITIS OR ACUTE MILD TO MODERATE PAIN (PER FDA LABEL): NOTE TO MOLINA REVIEWER: DICLOFENAC 3% IS NOT INDICATED AND HAS NO LITERATURE TO SUPPORT THE USE IN ANY INDICATION OTHER THAN ACTINIC KERATOSIS- ALL REQUESTS FOR THE 3% GEL FOR ANY OTHER INDICATION SHOULD BE REVIEWED USING OFF-LABEL POLICY

1. Documented diagnosis of osteoarthritis or acute pain of an area susceptible to topical treatment per product label (e.g., knees, hands, feet, elbows, etc.)

AND

2. Documentation of ANY of the following: (a) prior adequate trial and failure of 3 formulary oral NSAIDs (e.g., meloxicam, etodolac, nabumetone, ibuprofen, naproxen, etc.) OR (b) gastrointestinal intolerance to 2 formulary NSAIDs used concurrently with a proton pump inhibitor OR (c) member has a labeled contraindication to oral NSAIDs

AND

3. FOR PRESCRIPTION (NON-FORMULARY) DICLOFENAC GEL/SOLUTION ONLY: Member has a diagnosis of KNEE osteoarthritis AND Documentation of a trial (minimum of 4 weeks) and failure of preferred formulary diclofenac 1% gel OTC (OTC is preferred and does NOT require a PA-quantity limits still apply) AND Requests for NON-PREFERRED diclofenac 1% gel RX requires documented medical justification for need of RX dosage form over the OTC dosage form.

AND

4. FOR PENNSAID ONLY: Member has a diagnosis of KNEE osteoarthritis AND member has tried (at least 3 months) and failed diclofenac 1% gel OTC (over-the-counter)

AND

5. Prescriber attests to (or the clinical reviewer has found that) the member not having any FDA labeled contraindications that haven't been addressed by the prescriber within the documentation submitted for review [Contraindications to diclofenac solution and diclofenac epolamine include: hypersensitivity to diclofenac or any component of the drug product, history of asthma, urticaria, or allergic-type reaction after taking aspirin or other NSAIDs, in the setting of coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) surgery, use on non-intact or damaged skin, patients with severe heart failure unless the benefits are expected to outweigh the risk of worsening heart failure, patients with advanced renal disease unless benefits are expected to outweigh risk of worsening renal function, late pregnancy, concurrent use with oral NSAIDs, patients with a recent MI unless the benefits are expected to outweigh the risk of recurrent CV thrombotic events]

CONTINUATION OF THERAPY:

A. ACTINIC KERATOSIS (3% GEL ONLY): N/A

B. OSTEOARTHRITIS:

1. Prescriber attests to or clinical reviewer has found no evidence of intolerable adverse effects or drug toxicity
- AND
2. Documentation of positive clinical response as demonstrated by low disease activity and/or

C. ACUTE MILD TO MODERATE PAIN: REQUEST SHOULD BE REVIEWED AS NEW INITIAL AUTHORIZATION

DURATION OF APPROVAL:

ACTINIC KERATOSIS (3% GEL ONLY): Initial authorization: 3 months, Continuation of therapy: N/A [Complete healing of the lesion(s) or optimal therapeutic effect may not be evident for up to 30 days following cessation of therapy. Lesions that do not respond to therapy should be carefully re-evaluated and management reconsidered.]

OSTEOARTHRITIS: Initial authorization: 6 months, Continuation of therapy: 12 months

ACUTE MILD TO MODERATE PAIN: Initial authorization: 6 months, Continuation of therapy: NA

PRESCRIBER REQUIREMENTS:

3% GEL ONLY: Prescribed by or in consultation with a dermatologist. [If prescribed in consultation, consultation notes must be submitted with initial request and reauthorization requests]

AGE RESTRICTIONS:

FLECTOR ONLY: 6 years and older

ALL OTHER PRODUCTS: 18 years of age and older

QUANTITY:

DICLOFENAC GEL 3%: for UP TO 90 days, 0.5g gel is used on each 5 x 5 cm lesion site

DICLOFENAC 1% GEL: Formulary quantity limit 200g/30 days*

Lower extremities: Apply 4 g of 1% gel to affected area 4 times daily (maximum: 16 g per joint/day)

Upper extremities: Apply 2 g of 1% gel to affected area 4 times daily (maximum: 8 g per joint/day)

*Can approve up to maximum FDA label if medical necessity demonstrated for that quantity

DICLOFENAC 2% SOLUTION: 224g/30 days

DICLOFENAC EPOLAMINE (Flector) PATCHES 60 patches/30 days

DICLOFENAC EPOLAMINE (Licart) PATCHES: 30 patches/30 days

PLACE OF ADMINISTRATION:

The recommendation is that topical medications in this policy will be for pharmacy benefit coverage and patient self-administered.

DRUG INFORMATION

ROUTE OF ADMINISTRATION:

Topical

DRUG CLASS:

Anti-inflammatory Agent

FDA-APPROVED USES:

Diclofenac sodium 3% gel is indicated for the topical treatment of actinic keratoses (AK)

Voltaren Gel (diclofenac sodium gel 1%) RX is indicated for the relief of pain of osteoarthritis of joints amenable to topical treatment, such as the knees and those of the hands

Voltaren Gel (diclofenac sodium gel 1%) OTC is indicated for the relief of pain of osteoarthritis of joints amenable to topical treatment, such as the knees and those of the hands

Drug and Biologic Coverage Criteria

Pennsaid (diclofenac solution) is indicated for the treatment of the pain of osteoarthritis of the knee(s)

Flector, Licart patches (diclofenac epolamine patch) 1.3% is indicated for topical treatment of acute mild pain or moderate pain due to minor strains, sprains, and contusions

COMPENDIAL APPROVED OFF-LABELED USES:

None

APPENDIX

APPENDIX:

None

BACKGROUND AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

BACKGROUND:

Diclofenac sodium 3% gel has not been shown to be effective, or there are limited or preliminary data or potential safety concerns that are not supportive of general approval for Osteoarthritis (OA). There has been one small, randomized, placebo-controlled study assessing the efficacy of a topical diclofenac 3%/sodium hyaluronate 2.5% gel (Canadian formulation) applied as 2 grams four times daily (QID) to one joint for 2 weeks in patients (n = 119) with uncontrolled OA pain despite chronic (≥ 1 month) oral NSAID use. The effect of topical diclofenac 3%/sodium hyaluronate 2.5% gel in patients who continued their chronic oral NSAID therapy demonstrated only marginally significantly greater analgesic effect than placebo gel: the mean change from baseline in overall pain from OA (using a 5-point scale) was -0.7 vs. -0.4 for topical diclofenac and placebo, respectively (P= 0.0568). Additional data are needed to define the place in therapy of diclofenac sodium 3% gel for the treatment of OA. Other topical agents are indicated for this use.

CONTRAINDICATIONS/EXCLUSIONS/DISCONTINUATION:

All other uses of topical diclofenac are considered experimental/investigational and therefore will follow the Molina Healthcare, Inc. off-label policy. Contraindications to diclofenac 3% include: hypersensitivity to diclofenac, benzyl alcohol, polyethylene glycol monomethyl ether 350 and/or hyaluronate sodium, in the setting of coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) surgery, patients with a recent MI unless the benefits are expected to outweigh the risk of recurrent CV thrombotic events, patients with severe heart failure unless the benefits are expected to outweigh the risk of worsening heart failure, spending time in sunlight or artificial light, applying to open wounds or infections or peeling skin, late pregnancy. Contraindications to diclofenac solution and diclofenac epolamine include: hypersensitivity to diclofenac or any component of the drug product, history of asthma, urticaria, or allergic-type reaction after taking aspirin or other NSAIDs, in the setting of coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) surgery, use on non-intact or damaged skin, patients with severe heart failure unless the benefits are expected to outweigh the risk of worsening heart failure, patients with advanced renal disease unless benefits are expected to outweigh risk of worsening renal function, late pregnancy, concurrent use with oral NSAIDs, patients with a recent MI unless the benefits are expected to outweigh the risk of recurrent CV thrombotic events.

OTHER SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

None

CODING/BILLING INFORMATION

Note: 1) This list of codes may not be all-inclusive. 2) Deleted codes and codes which are not effective at the time the service is rendered may not be eligible for reimbursement

Drug and Biologic Coverage Criteria

HCP'S CODE	DESCRIPTION
NA	

AVAILABLE DOSAGE FORMS:

Diclofenac Topical Gel/Jelly: 1 %, 3 %

Diclofenac Topical Solution: 1.5 %, 2 %

Diclofono (diclofenac) Topical Gel/Jelly: 1.6 %

Diclo Gel (diclofenac) Topical Gel/Jelly 1 %, Diclozor (diclofenac) Topical Gel/Jelly 1%, Voltaren Gel (diclofenac) Topical Gel/Jelly 1%

Pennsaid (diclofenac) Topical Solution: 1.5 %, 2 %

Solaraze (diclofenac) Topical Gel/Jelly: 3 %

Flector PTCH 1.3% (box of 5 or 30), Diclofenac Epolamine PTCH 1.3% (box of 5 or 30) Licart PT24 1.3%

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Drug and Biologic Coverage Criteria

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SUMMARY OF REVIEW/REVISIONS	DATE
REVISION- Notable revisions: Products Affected Required Medical Information Continuation of Therapy Duration of Approval Age Restrictions Quantity FDA-Approved Uses Contraindications/Exclusions/Discontinuation Available Dosage Forms References	Q1 2023
Q2 2022 Established tracking in new format	Historical changes on file