

## Clinical Policy: Age Limit for Topical Tretinoin

Reference Number: CP.PMN.191

Effective Date: 01.29.19

Last Review Date: 05.20

Line of Business: Medicaid

[Revision Log](#)

See [Important Reminder](#) at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

### Description

This policy applies to topical tretinoin agents with health plan-approved age limits. Examples of such agent include: tretinoin cream and gel (e.g., Retin-A<sup>®</sup>, Retin-A Micro<sup>®</sup>).

### FDA Approved Indication(s)

Topical tretinoin is indicated for the treatment of acne vulgaris.

### Policy/Criteria

*Provider must submit documentation (such as office chart notes, lab results or other clinical information) supporting that member has met all approval criteria.*

It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation<sup>®</sup> that topical tretinoin is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

#### I. Initial Approval Criteria

##### A. Acne Vulgaris (must meet all):

1. Member's age exceeds the health plan-approved age limit;
2. Diagnosis of acne vulgaris;
3. Requested dose does not exceed health plan-approved quantity limit.

**Approval duration: 12 months**

##### B. Other diagnoses/indications

1. Refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

#### II. Continued Therapy

##### A. Acne Vulgaris (must meet all):

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
2. Member is responding positively to therapy;
3. Requested dose does not exceed health plan-approved quantity limit.

**Approval duration: 12 months**

##### B. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2):

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit and documentation supports positive response to therapy.

- Approval duration: Duration of request or 12 months (whichever is less); or**
2. Refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

**III. Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized:**

- A. Non-FDA approved indications, which are not addressed in this policy, unless there is sufficient documentation of efficacy and safety according to the off label use policies – CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid or evidence of coverage documents.

**IV. Appendices/General Information**

*Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key*

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

*Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives*

Not applicable

*Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings*

- Contraindication(s): Retin-A cream/gel is contraindicated in patients with hypersensitivity to any of the ingredients.
- Boxed warning(s): none reported

**V. Dosage and Administration**

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
Acne vulgaris	Apply a thin layer to the affected area(s) QHS	Once daily

**VI. Product Availability**

- Cream (20 g, 45 g tubes): 0.025%, 0.05%, 0.1%
- Gel (20 g, 45 g tubes): 0.025%, 0.05%, 0.1%
- Microsphere gel (20 g tube, 45 g tube, 50 g bottle with pump): 0.04%, 0.08%, 0.1%

**VII. References**

1. Retin-A Prescribing Information. Bridgewater, NJ: Valeant Pharmaceuticals North America LLC June 2002. Available at: [https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda\\_docs/label/2002/16921s21s22s251bl.pdf](https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2002/16921s21s22s251bl.pdf). Accessed February 25, 2020.
2. Retin-A Micro Prescribing Information. Bridgewater, NJ: Valeant Pharmaceuticals North America LLC; January 2014. Available at: [https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda\\_docs/label/2014/020475s0211bl.pdf](https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2014/020475s0211bl.pdf). Accessed February 25, 2020.
3. Clinical Pharmacology [database online]. Tampa, FL: Gold Standard, Inc.; 2020. Available at: <http://www.clinicalpharmacology-ip.com/>. Accessed February 25, 2020.

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
Policy created	01.29.19	05.19
2Q 2020 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	02.25.20	05.20

**Important Reminder**

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. The Health Plan makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. “Health Plan” means a health plan that has adopted this clinical policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part, by Centene Management Company, LLC, or any of such health plan’s affiliates, as applicable.

The purpose of this clinical policy is to provide a guide to medical necessity, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage decisions and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions and limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable Health Plan-level administrative policies and procedures.

This clinical policy is effective as of the date determined by the Health Plan. The date of posting may not be the effective date of this clinical policy. This clinical policy may be subject to applicable legal and regulatory requirements relating to provider notification. If there is a discrepancy between the effective date of this clinical policy and any applicable legal or regulatory requirement, the requirements of law and regulation shall govern. The Health Plan retains the right to change, amend or withdraw this clinical policy, and additional clinical policies may be developed and adopted as needed, at any time.

This clinical policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members. This clinical policy is not intended to recommend treatment for members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

Providers referred to in this clinical policy are independent contractors who exercise independent judgment and over whom the Health Plan has no control or right of control. Providers are not agents or employees of the Health Plan.

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**Note:**

**For Medicaid members**, when state Medicaid coverage provisions conflict with the coverage provisions in this clinical policy, state Medicaid coverage provisions take precedence. Please refer to the state Medicaid manual for any coverage provisions pertaining to this clinical policy.

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