**Medication Policy Manual**

**Policy No:** dru451

**Topic:** Aczone®, dapsone

**Date of Origin:** March 11, 2016

**Committee Approval Date:** March 11, 2016

**Next Review Date:** March 2017

**Effective Date:** March 11, 2016

**IMPORTANT REMINDER**

This Medication Policy has been developed through consideration of medical necessity, generally accepted standards of medical practice, and review of medical literature and government approval status.

*Benefit determinations should be based in all cases on the applicable contract language.* To the extent there are any conflicts between these guidelines and the contract language, the contract language will control.

The purpose of Medication Policy is to provide a guide to coverage. Medication Policy is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise their medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care.

**Description**

Topical acne products include a variety of drugs that reduce inflammatory and noninflammatory lesions. Topical acne products are available as both over-the-counter (OTC) and prescription products and are widely prescribed for acne vulgaris.
Policy/Criteria

I. Most contracts require prior authorization approval of dapsone (Aczone) prior to coverage. Dapsone (Aczone) may be considered medically necessary when at least two generic prescription antibiotic alternatives have been ineffective, contraindicated, or not tolerated.

II. Administration, Quantity Limitations, and Authorization Period

A. OmedaRx considers dapsone (Aczone) to be a self-administered medication.
B. Authorization may be reviewed at least annually to confirm that current medical necessity criteria are met and the medications are effective.

Position Statement

- The intent of the policy is to allow coverage of Aczone when lower cost acne products are not effective, not tolerated, or are contraindicated.
- All acne products have similar anti-inflammatory effects; however individual responses may be variable. [1-3]

Clinical Efficacy

- In general, there is no comparative evidence that any of the high-cost acne products are safer or more effective than any other branded or lower-cost alternatives. [1-3]
- Clinical guidelines have not differentiated between branded options over other brand or generic options. [4-5]
- Of the many available topical antibacterials, dapsone (Aczone) is the only product for which the active ingredient is not generically available as a topical product. [6]

References

Appendix 1: Examples of comparable alternatives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alternative products include, but are not limited to, the following generic antibiotics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tetracycline, doxycycline immediate release (IR), minocycline IR, erythromycin, azithromycin, sulfamethoxazole-trimethoprim, clindamycin, erythromycin</td>
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**Revision History**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revision Date</th>
<th>Revision Summary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/11/2016</td>
<td>New policy</td>
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