Acne Management

Adjudication Rule

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Abstract

For Members

Acne is a skin problem that starts when oil and dead skin cells clog up pores. Some people call it blackheads, blemishes, whiteheads, pimples, or zits. Just a few red spots, or pimples, are a mild form of acne. Severe acne can mean hundreds of pimples that can cover the face, neck, chest, and back or it can be bigger, solid, red lumps that are painful (cysts).

Acne is commonly classified as mild, moderate and severe or inflammatory & non-inflammatory. Acne may be treated with a combination of remedies including over-the-counter skin care acne medications, and chemical or laser procedures.

Treatment of acne is considered to be cosmetic in nature, and is not covered for all plans administered by Daman, except in cases of infected acne and severe cystic acne where it is considered medically necessary.

For Medical Professionals

Based on the general exclusion of Daman’s various policies, treatment of acne is considered to be cosmetic in nature, and is not covered for any health insurance plan administered by Daman unless proven otherwise to be medically necessary.

Daman considers treatment of the following types of acne medically necessary, if the treatment rendered is not targeted towards treating the signs and symptoms which are cosmetic in nature:

- Infected acne (if the treatment rendered is targeted towards treating the infection) and
- Severe cystic acne
Acne Management

Scope

This Adjudication Rule highlights Daman’s adjudication policy on the treatment of acne for all health insurance plans administered by Daman.

Adjudication Policy

Eligibility / Coverage Criteria

Based on the general exclusion of Daman’s various policies, treatment of acne is considered to be cosmetic in nature, and is not covered for any health insurance plan administered by Daman unless proven otherwise to be medically necessary.

Daman considers treatment of the following types of acne medically necessary, if the treatment rendered is not targeted towards treating the signs and symptoms which are cosmetic in nature:

- Infected acne (if the treatment rendered is targeted towards treating the infection) and
- Severe cystic acne

Requirements for Coverage

ICD and CPT codes must be coded to the highest level of specificity.

Non-Coverage

Based on the general exclusion of Daman’s various policies, treatment of acne is considered to be cosmetic in nature, and is not covered for any health insurance plan administered by Daman unless proven otherwise to be medically necessary.

Payment and Coding Rules

Please apply HAAD payment rules and regulations and relevant coding manuals for ICD, CPT, etc.

Example 1

Question: A 16 year old male patient, holding a Thiqa card, with complaints of infected acne vulgaris on his forehead and face, visits a dermatologist, who prescribes ‘Benzoyl peroxide cream’ for him, for topical use. Would this treatment be covered for this young man?

Answer: Treatment of acne vulgaris for this gentleman will be covered.

Example 2

Question: A Basic plan (Abu Dhabi plan) holder with c/o moderate acne was prescribed an antibiotic (oral) and a corticosteroid by the treating dermatologist. Would these drugs be covered for the patient?

Answer: The medications will not be covered for this patient.

Denial codes

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<td>Service is not clinically indicated based on good clinical practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCOV-003</td>
<td>Service(s) is (are) not covered</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCOV-001</td>
<td>Diagnosis(es) is (are) not covered</td>
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Appendices

A. References

1. British Medical Journal, Evidence Centre
3. Policy wordings
4. Schedule of benefits

B. Revision History

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