

Acne management

Adjudication Guideline

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Pharmaceutical

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Table of Contents

1.	Abstract	3
1.1	For Members.....	3
1.2	For Medical Professionals.....	3
2.	Scope	3
3.	Adjudication Policy.....	3
3.1	Eligibility / Coverage Criteria.....	3
3.2	Requirements for Coverage	4
3.3	Non-Coverage.....	4
3.4	Payment and Coding Rules	4
4.	Denial codes	4
5.	Appendices	4
5.1	References	4
5.2	Revision History	Error! Bookmark not defined.

1. Abstract

1.1 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.

1.2 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)
- Severe cystic acne

Isotretinoin (systemic) is a schedule drug- used for management of infected acne- always requires authorization.

Isotretinoin tablets should only be prescribed by dermatologist.

Pretreatment Isotretinoin (systemic) laboratory tests are covered as per the international best practice.

2. Scope

This guideline highlights Daman's adjudication policy on the treatment of acne for all health insurance plans administered by Daman.

3. Adjudication Policy

3.1 Eligibility / Coverage Criteria

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)
- Severe cystic acne

3.2 Requirements for Coverage

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

3.3 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.

3.4 Payment and Coding Rules

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

4. Denial Codes

Code	Code description
MNEC-004	Service is not clinically indicated based on good clinical practice
PDL-O1	Service(s) is (are) not covered
NCOV-003	Diagnosis(es) is (are) not covered
CODE-O10	Clinician ID cannot bill this drug
MNEC-005	Service/Supply may be appropriate, but too frequent
CODE-014	Activity/diagnosis is inconsistent with the patient's age/gender

5. Appendices

5.1 References

- https://www.uptodate.com/contents/treatment-of-acnevulgaris?search=acne%20treatment&source=search_result&selectedTitle=1~150&usage_type=default&display_rank=1#H4114226234
- Guidelines of care for the management of acne vulgaris
<https://www.aad.org/.../Quality%20care%20and%20guidelines/Acne-guideline.pdf>
- <https://bestpractice.bmj.com/topics/en-us/101/treatment-algorithm>
- Isotretinoin 20mg Soft Capsules - Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC) - (emc)

5.2 Revision History

Date	Version No.	Change(s)
01/07/2013	V1.0	New Template
15/07/2014	V2.0	Disclaimer updated as per system requirements Restored original effective date
09/01/2019	V3.0	Content update
6/12/2024	V4.0	Release of new template
14/05/2025	V5.0	Change reference number under Pharmaceutical

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