Topical Acne Combination Step Therapy

One of our preferred generic topical acne combination products must be used before a non-preferred, step 2 brand medication will process.

Prefered, 1st Step Products

- erythromycin/benzoyl peroxide (3% erythromycin/5% bp)
- clindamycin/benzoyl peroxide (1% clindamycin/5% bp)
- tretinoin cream/gel (0.01%, 0.025%, 0.05%, 0.1%)
- clindamycin solution/lotion/gel 1%

Non-preferred, 2nd Step Products

- Acanya (1.2% clindamycin/2.5% benzoyl peroxide)
- Benzaclin (all formulations)
- Ziana (0.025% tretinoin/1.2% clindamycin)
- Veltin (0.025% tretinoin/1.2% clindamycin)
- Onexton (3.75% benzoyl peroxide, clindamycin 1.2%)

The goal of using step therapy is to increase formulary compliance within each therapy class. Each class was reviewed by the Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania P&T committee. Clinical and cost considerations were reviewed and the program was approved by the Committee. Step therapy programs require the use of one or more first-step drugs before a second-step drug. Other considerations of the program are as follows:

- This program applies to members when starting on medications for the first time and members restarting on medications after a lapse of more than 180 days.
- If you believe that the first-step drug requirement is inappropriate or if it has failed to successfully treat your patient's condition, you may submit a prior authorization request for consideration of approval of a second-step medication.
- If a member has received the 1 required first-step medications in the preceding 180 days, the second-step drug will process without intervention.
- Members currently taking second-step medications may continue to use these medications without interruption.