Oscar Clinical Guideline: azelaic acid 15% gel (PG059, Ver. 6)

azelaic acid 15% gel

Summary

Azelaic acid gel is a topical agent used in the treatment of rosacea. Rosacea is a skin condition primarily affecting the face and can present as redness, swelling, inflammation that includes papules and pustules, dilated blood vessels that appear on the surface of the skin, and rhinophyma (characterized by an enlarged, red nose). Treatment of rosacea can vary depending on the symptoms involved. The first-line treatment of the inflammatory papules and pustules involve topical agents such as metronidazole and azelaic acid gel.

Definitions

"Papule" is a raised area of the skin, usually pink or red, that occurs in conditions such as rosacea and dermatitis.

"Pustule" is a bump on the skin that contains pus or liquid.

"**Rosacea**" is a skin condition primarily affecting the face and can present as redness, swelling, inflammation that includes papules and pustules, dilated blood vessels that appear on the surface of the skin, and rhinophyma (characterized by an enlarged, red nose).

Medical Necessity Criteria for Authorization

The Plan considers **azelaic acid 15% gel** medically necessary when **ALL** of the following criteria are met:

1. The member is 18 years of age or older**; *AND***
2. The member is using the requested medication for the treatment of inflammatory papules and pustules of mild to moderate rosacea**; *AND***
3. The member is unable to use, or has adequately tried and failed topical metronidazole for a minimum one (1) month trial.

If the above prior authorization criteria are met, azelaic acid 15% gel will be approved for 12 months.

Experimental or Investigational / Not Medically Necessary

Azelaic acid 15% gel for any other indication is considered not medically necessary by the Plan, as it is deemed to be experimental, investigational, or unproven.

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Clinical Guideline Revision / History Information

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