

Policies Repository



Policy Title Calcipotriene and betamethasone dipropionate (Taclonex®/Taclonex Scalp®)

Policy Number FS.CLIN.44

Application of Pharmacy Policy is determined by benefits and contracts. Benefits may vary based on product line, group or contract. Some medications may be subject to precertification, age, gender or quantity edits. Individual member benefits must be verified.

This Pharmacy Policy document describes the status of pharmaceutical information and/or technology at the time the document was developed. Since that time, new information relating to drug efficacy, interactions, contraindications, dosage, administration routes, safety or FDA approval may have changed. If the Medical/Pharmacy Reviewer is aware of any new information on the subject of this document, please provide it promptly to the Medical/Pharmacy Policy Department. This information may include new FDA approved indications, withdrawals or other FDA alerts. This type of information is relevant not only when considering whether this Policy should be updated, but also when applying it to current requests for coverage.

Members are advised to use participating pharmacies in order to receive the highest level of benefits.

Policy **Calcipotriene and betamethasone dipropionate (Taclonex®/Taclonex Scalp®)** is indicated for the topical treatment of psoriasis vulgaris in adults 18 years of age and older.

The use of calcipotriene and betamethasone dipropionate (Taclonex®/Taclonex Scalp®) requires prior authorization (ie, clinical pharmacy and/or Medical Director review).

Policy Description **Calcipotriene and betamethasone dipropionate (Taclonex®/Taclonex Scalp®)** is a combination of calcipotriene and betamethasone dipropionate. Calcipotriene is a synthetic analog of vitamin D3. Calcipotriene inhibits keratinocyte proliferation and induces terminal differentiation of keratinocytes which reverses the abnormal keratinocyte change in psoriasis. Betamethasone dipropionate is a steroid that induces phospholipase A2 inhibitory proteins. These proteins inhibit the release of arachidonic acid, which is the precursor to inflammatory mediators such as prostaglandins and leukotrienes.

Policy Guideline Inclusion **Calcipotriene and betamethasone dipropionate (Taclonex®/Taclonex Scalp®)** is approved when **both** of the following inclusion criteria are met:

- Documentation of psoriasis vulgaris in adults 18 years of age or older
- Documentation of the trial and failure of/intolerance to concurrent use of calcipotriene (Dovonex®) and a topical betamethasone product

Policy Guideline Exclusion **Calcipotriene and betamethasone dipropionate (Taclonex®/Taclonex Scalp®)** is denied when **any** of the following exclusion criteria are present:

- No documentation of psoriasis vulgaris in adults 18 years of age or older
- No documentation of the trial and failure of/intolerance to concurrent use of calcipotriene (Dovonex®) and a topical betamethasone product

Policy List of Applicable Drugs

Brand Name	Generic Name

Taclonex/Taclonex Scalp	Calcipotriene and betamethasone dipropionate
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Dosing and Administration

Refer to the specific manufacturer's prescribing information for administration and dosage details for each specific agent.

Policy References

Calcipotriene and betamethasone dipropionate (Taclonex®/Taclonex Scalp®). In: Facts and Comparisons [online through Facts and Comparisons Online]. Indy, IN: Walter Kluwer Health Inc. Accessed December 31, 2009.

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Papp KA, Guenther L, Boyden B, et al. Early onset of action and efficacy of a combination of calcipotriene and betamethasone dipropionate in the treatment of psoriasis. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2003;48(1):48-54.

Patel B, Siskin S, Krazmien R, Lebwohl M. Compatibility of calcipotriene with other topical medications. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 1998;38(6 Pt 1):1010-1011.

Taclonex [package insert]. Rockaway, NJ: Warner Chilcott; July 2008.

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Policy Link to Related Policies

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