Tazarotene

Description

Tazorac (tazarotene), Fabior (tazarotene), tazarotene powder

Background

Tazarotene is a retinoid prodrug that is converted to its active form, tazarotenic acid, by rapid de-esterification in most biological systems. The mechanism of tazarotene action is not defined. Tazorac is approved for acne vulgaris and psoriasis.

Acne Vulgaris is an eruption, predominantly of the face, upper back, and chest composed of comedones, millia, cysts, papules, and pustules on an inflammatory base: the condition occurs in a majority of people during puberty and adolescence, due to androgenic stimulation of sebum secretion, with plugging of follicles by keratinization, associated with proliferation of Propionibacterium acnes (1).

Plaque psoriasis is a chronic condition of the skin characterized by pink plaques covered with silvery scales. Its cause is unknown, but is believed to have a genetic origin. It is the result of increased production, upward migration, and shedding of normal skin cells (3,4).

Tazorac (tazarotene) is used for acne and psoriasis. Tazarotene is also used for mitigation of facial fine wrinkling, a non-covered cosmetic indication.

Regulatory Status

FDA-approved indication: Tazorac (tazarotene) Cream 0.05% and 0.1% are indicated for the topical treatment of patients with plaque psoriasis. Tazorac (tazarotene) Cream 0.1% is also indicated for the topical treatment of patients with acne vulgaris (2).
FDA-approved indication: Tazorac (tazarotene) Gel 0.05% and 0.1% are indicated for the topical treatment of patients with stable plaque psoriasis of up to 20% body surface area involvement (6).

Tazorac (tazarotene) Gel 0.1% is also indicated for the topical treatment of patients with facial acne vulgaris of mild to moderate severity (6).

Fabior (tazarotene) Foam 0.1% is indicated for the topical treatment of acne vulgaris in patients 12 years of age or older (7).

Tazorac is contraindicated in pregnancy.

Related policies
Atralin, Avita, Differin, Epiduo, Refissa, Renova, Retin-A, Tretin-X, Veltin, Ziana

Policy
This policy statement applies to clinical review performed for pre-service (Prior Approval, Precertification, Advanced Benefit Determination, etc.) and/or post-service claims.

Tazar may be considered medically necessary for the treatment of acne vulgaris, psoriasis, or malignant / pre-malignant dermatological conditions. Tazorac may be considered investigational for all other indications.

Prior-Approval Requirements

Age  Age less than 35 – no restriction

Diagnoses
Patient must have ONE of the following:

1. Acne Vulgaris
2. Psoriasis
3. Malignant or pre-malignant conditions
   a. Actinic Keratosis
   b. Porokeratosis
   c. Basal/Squamous Cell Carcinoma
Prior – Approval Renewal Requirements
Same as above

Policy Guidelines

Pre – PA Allowance

Age
Age less than 35 – no restriction
Age 35 or greater – no Pre-PA allowance

Prior - Approval Limits

Duration
12 months

Prior – Approval Renewal Limits
Same as above

Rationale

Summary
Tazarotene is a retinoid prodrug that is converted to its active form, tazarotenic acid, by rapid de-esterification in most biological systems. The mechanism of tazarotene action is not defined. Tazorac is approved for acne vulgaris and psoriasis.

Prior authorization is required to ensure the safe, clinically appropriate and cost effective use of Tazorac while maintaining optimal therapeutic outcomes.

References
Cory A Dunnick, MD, Clinical Instructor, Department of Dermatology, Stanford University

1. Cory A Dunnick, MD, Clinical Instructor, Department of Dermatology, Stanford University Eruptive Vellus Hair Cysts February 24, 2004


Policy History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Action</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 2010</td>
<td>Addition of malignant and pre-malignant conditions to criteria. The use of Tazorac and other topical retinoids for the treatment of malignant and pre-malignant skin conditions is well documented in medical literature. Adding these diagnoses brings Tazorac in line with the current topical retinoid criteria.</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 2011</td>
<td>Annual review and update</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 2012</td>
<td>Annual review and update</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 2013</td>
<td>Line-addition of Tazarotene 0.1% cream, Fabior 0.1% Foam, and tazarotene powder. Reference update.</td>
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Keywords

This policy was approved by the FEP® Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee on December 6, 2012 and is effective January 1, 2013.

Signature on File

James A. Ferrendelli, M.D.