Pharmacy Medical Necessity Guidelines: Antifungal Medications, Topical

Effective: August 11, 2026

Prior Authorization Required	√	Type of Review – Care Management	
Not Covered		Type of Review – Clinical Review	√
Pharmacy (RX) or Medical (MED) Benefit	RX	Department to Review	RXUM
These pharmacy medical necessity guidelines apply to the following: ☒ Tufts Health RITogether – A Rhode Island Medicaid Plan		**Fax Numbers:** RXUM: 617.673.0939	

Note: This guideline does not apply to Medicare Members (includes dual eligible Members).

OVERVIEW

FDA-APPROVED INDICATIONS

Topical antifungal agents are indicated for the treatment of tinea corporis (ringworm), tinea cruris (jock itch), tinea pedis (athlete's foot), and onychomycosis (nail fungus) caused by *Trichophyton rubrum*, *Trichophyton mentagrophytes*, and *Epidermophyton floccosum*; tinea (pityriasis) versicolor caused by *Pityrosporum orbiculare* (also known as *Malassezia furfur*); cutaneous candidiasis caused by *Candida* sp.; and seborrheic dermatitis.

Topical Antifungal Medications*	
Preferred Products	Ciclopirox 0.77% Cream, Gel
	Ciclopirox 8% Solution
	Clotrimazole Cream, Lotion, Solution
	Clotrimazole/Betamethasone Cream, Lotion
	Econazole Cream
	Ketoconazole Cream, Shampoo
	Miconazole Cream, Powder (OTC)
	Nystatin Cream, Ointment, Powder
	Nystatin/Triamcinolone Cream, Ointment
	Tolnaftate cream, powder, aerosol, solution (OTC)
Non-Preferred Products	Ciclopirox 0.77% Suspension, Shampoo
	Naftifine 2% Cream; 1% Gel (Naftin)
	Oxiconazole Cream, Lotion (Oxistat)
	Econazole Foam (Ecoza)
	Efinaconazole Solution (Jublia)
	Luliconazole Cream (Luzu)
	Sulconazole Cream, Solution (Exelderm)

*May not be inclusive of all topical antifungal medications

COVERAGE GUIDELINES

The plan may authorize coverage of a topical antifungal medication for Members when criteria for a particular regimen are met and limitations do not apply:

1. The Member had an insufficient response to therapy with at least two preferred antifungal agents, or with individual agents if the request is for a combination product

If the request is for treatment of onychomycosis of the nail,

1. The provider documented the need to avoid systemic antifungal therapies

AND

2. The Member had an insufficient response to a full course of therapy with ciclopirox 8% topical solution

Reauthorization

1. The Member has had an office visit and has been re-assessed for this condition within the past year, and continued therapy with this medication is medically necessary.

LIMITATIONS

1. Approval will be limited to one year.
2. Requests for brand-name products, which have AB-rated generics, will be reviewed according to Brand Name criteria.

CODES

None

REFERENCES

1. Ciclopirox shampoo [prescribing information]. Parsippany, NJ: Actavis Pharma, Inc; October 2023 .
2. Ciclopirox suspension [prescribing information]. Allegan, MI: Padagis; January 2022.
3. Ecoza (econazole) [prescribing information]. Florham Park, NJ: Exeltis US Dermatology, LLC; October 2020.
4. Exelderm (sulconazole nitrate) cream [prescribing information]. Scottsdale, AZ: Journey Medical Corporation; July 2022.
5. Exelderm (sulconazole nitrate) solution [prescribing information]. Scottsdale, AZ: Journey Medical Corporation; - November 2022.
6. Goldstein AO, Bhatia N .Onychomycosis: management. UpToDate. Available at: www.uptodate.com. Accessed: 25 July 2023.
7. Jublia (efinaconazole) [prescribing information]. Bridgewater, NJ: Bausch Health US, LLC; March 2022.
8. Luzu (luliconazole) [prescribing information]. Bridgewater, NJ: Bausch Health US, LLC; April 2020.
9. Naftifine 2% cream [prescribing information]. October 2020. Bridgewater, NJ: Amneal Pharmaceuticals LLC; October 2020.
10. Naftin (naftifine) 1% gel [prescribing information]. Roswell, GA: Sebela Pharmaceuticals, Inc: December 2018.
11. Naftin (naftifine) 2% gel [prescribing information]. Roswell, GA: Sebela Pharmaceuticals Inc; December 2023.
12. Oxistat (oxiconazole) [prescribing information]. Melville, NY: Fougera Pharmaceuticals; September 202.

APPROVAL HISTORY

October 11, 2022: Reviewed by Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee.

Subsequent endorsement date(s) and changes made:

1. August 8, 2023: No changes.
2. August 13, 2024: Updated overview FDA approved indications to include onychomycosis (nail fungus. No criteria updates. Administrative update to fax number
3. August 12, 2025: No changes.
4. August 11, 2026: No changes.

BACKGROUND, PRODUCT AND DISCLAIMER INFORMATION

Pharmacy Medical Necessity Guidelines have been developed for determining coverage for plan benefits and are published to provide a better understanding of the basis upon which coverage decisions are made. The plan makes coverage decisions on a case-by-case basis considering the individual member's health care needs. Pharmacy Medical Necessity Guidelines are developed for selected therapeutic classes or drugs found to be safe, but proven to be effective in a limited, defined population of patients or clinical circumstances. They include concise clinical coverage criteria based on current literature review, consultation with practicing physicians in the service area who are medical experts in the particular field, FDA and other government agency policies, and standards adopted by national accreditation organizations. The plan revises and updates Pharmacy Medical Necessity Guidelines annually, or more frequently if new evidence becomes available that suggests needed revisions.

For self-insured plans, coverage may vary depending on the terms of the benefit document. If a discrepancy exists between a Pharmacy Medical Necessity Guideline and a self-insured Member's benefit document, the provisions of the benefit document will govern.

Treating providers are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members. The use of this policy is not a guarantee of payment or a final prediction of how specific claim(s) will be adjudicated. Claims payment is subject to member eligibility and benefits on the date of service, coordination of benefits, referral/authorization and utilization management guidelines when applicable, and adherence to plan policies and procedures and claims editing logic.

Provider Services