



**BlueCross
BlueShield**

Federal Employee Program.

ANTIFUNGAL AND ANTIBIOTIC POWDERS

Antifungals: Econazole Powder, Ketoconazole Powder, Nyamyc (nystatin) Powder, Nystop (nystatin) Powder

Antibiotics: Mupirocin Powder, Tobramycin Powder, Vancomycin Powder

RATIONALE FOR INCLUSION IN PA PROGRAM

Background

Pharmacy compounding is an ancient practice in which pharmacists combine, mix, or alter ingredients to create unique medications that meet specific needs of individual patients. Some examples of the need for compounding products would include the following: the dosage formulation must be changed to allow a person with dysphagia (trouble swallowing) to have a liquid formulation of a commercially available tablet only product; or to obtain the exact strength needed of the active ingredient, to avoid ingredients that a particular patient has an allergy to, or simply to add flavoring to medication to make it more palatable.

The intent of the criteria is to provide coverage consistent with product labeling, FDA guidance, standards of medical practice, evidence-based drug information, and/or published guidelines. Pharmacy powder products have the potential for misuse. Misuse of these powder products is quite common, and it is important to inform patients about the possible complications due to overuse of these drugs.

Regulatory Status

FDA-approved indication:

Antifungal agents kill fungi or inhibit their growth. Antifungals that kill fungi are called fungicidal while those that inhibit their growth are called fungistatic.

Antibiotics, or antimicrobials, are medications that destroy or slow down the growth of bacteria. Bactericidal antibiotics kill the bacteria, while bacteriostatic antibiotics stop the bacteria from multiplying).

Summary

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Prior authorization is required to ensure the safe, clinically appropriate, and cost-effective use of the antifungal and antibiotic products included in this policy while maintaining optimal therapeutic outcomes.