

## **Clinical Policy: Trifarotene (Aklief)**

Reference Number: CP.PMN.225

Effective Date: 03.01.20

Last Review Date: 02.22

Line of Business: Commercial, HIM, Medicaid

[Revision Log](#)

See [Important Reminder](#) at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

### **Description**

Trifarotene (Aklief<sup>®</sup>) is a retinoid.

### **FDA Approved Indication(s)**

Aklief is indicated for the topical treatment of acne vulgaris in patients 9 years of age and older.

### **Policy/Criteria**

*Provider must submit documentation (such as office chart notes, lab results or other clinical information) supporting that member has met all approval criteria.*

It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation<sup>®</sup> that Aklief is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

#### **I. Initial Approval Criteria**

##### **A. Acne Vulgaris** (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of acne vulgaris;
2. Age  $\geq$  9 years;
3. Failure of generic formulary topical tretinoin, tazarotene, and adapalene, unless all are contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
4. Dose does not exceed 1 pump every 3 months.

**Approval duration: 12 months**

##### **B. Other diagnoses/indications**

1. Refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): CP.CPA.09 for commercial, HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

#### **II. Continued Therapy**

##### **A. Acne Vulgaris** (must meet all):

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
2. Member is responding positively to therapy;
3. Dose does not exceed 1 pump every 3 months.

**Approval duration: 12 months**

**B. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2):**

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit and documentation supports positive response to therapy.  
**Approval duration: Duration of request or 12 months (whichever is less);** or
2. Refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): CP.CPA.09 for commercial, HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

**III. Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized:**

- A. Non-FDA approved indications, which are not addressed in this policy, unless there is sufficient documentation of efficacy and safety according to the off label use policies – CP.CPA.09 for commercial, HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid, or evidence of coverage documents.

**IV. Appendices/General Information**

*Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key*

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

*Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives*

*This table provides a listing of preferred alternative therapy recommended in the approval criteria. The drugs listed here may not be a formulary agent for all relevant lines of business and may require prior authorization.*

| Drug Name   | Dosing Regimen   | Dose Limit/<br>Maximum Dose |
|---|--|-----------------------------|
| tretinoin (Retin-A <sup>®</sup> , Atralin <sup>®</sup> , Altreno <sup>®</sup> ) | Apply a thin layer to the affected area(s) once daily at bedtime | Various                     |
| adapalene (Differin <sup>®</sup> )  | Apply a thin layer to the affected area(s) once daily at bedtime | Various                     |
| tazarotene (Tazorac <sup>®</sup> )  | Apply a thin layer to the affected area(s) once daily at bedtime | Various                     |

*Therapeutic alternatives are listed as Brand name<sup>®</sup> (generic) when the drug is available by brand name only and generic (Brand name<sup>®</sup>) when the drug is available by both brand and generic.*

*Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings*

None reported

**V. Dosage and Administration**

| Indication    | Dosing Regimen   | Maximum Dose        |
|---------------|--|---------------------|
| Acne vulgaris | Apply a thin layer of Aklief cream to the affected areas once daily, in the evening, on clean and dry skin | One application/day |

**VI. Product Availability**

Cream (pump): 0.005% (30 g, 45 g, 75 g)

**VII. References**

1. Aklief Prescribing Information. Fort Worth, TX: Galderma Laboratories, L.P.; October 2019. Available at: [https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda\\_docs/label/2019/211527s000lbl.pdf](https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2019/211527s000lbl.pdf). Accessed October 1, 2021.
2. Zaenglein AL, Pathy AL, Schlosser BJ, et al. Guidelines of care for the management of acne vulgaris. J Am Acad Dermatol 2016;74:945-73.

| Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals  | Date     | P&T Approval Date |
|--|----------|-------------------|
| Policy created   | 11.26.19 | 02.20             |
| Finalize HIM line of business per June SDC and prior clinical guidance.  | 06.04.20 |                   |
| 1Q 2021 annual review: no significant changes; references to HIM.PHAR.21 revised to HIM.PA.154; references reviewed and updated. | 11.03.20 | 02.21             |
| 1Q 2022 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.  | 10.01.21 | 02.22             |

**Important Reminder**

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. The Health Plan makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. “Health Plan” means a health plan that has adopted this clinical policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part, by Centene Management Company, LLC, or any of such health plan’s affiliates, as applicable.

The purpose of this clinical policy is to provide a guide to medical necessity, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage decisions and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions and limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable Health Plan-level administrative policies and procedures.

This clinical policy is effective as of the date determined by the Health Plan. The date of posting may not be the effective date of this clinical policy. This clinical policy may be subject to applicable legal and regulatory requirements relating to provider notification. If there is a discrepancy between the effective date of this clinical policy and any applicable legal or regulatory requirement, the requirements of law and regulation shall govern. The Health Plan

retains the right to change, amend or withdraw this clinical policy, and additional clinical policies may be developed and adopted as needed, at any time.

This clinical policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members. This clinical policy is not intended to recommend treatment for members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

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**Note:**

**For Medicaid members**, when state Medicaid coverage provisions conflict with the coverage provisions in this clinical policy, state Medicaid coverage provisions take precedence. Please refer to the state Medicaid manual for any coverage provisions pertaining to this clinical policy.

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