

Comparison of Representative Topical Corticosteroid Preparations (US classification)*

Low Cost or Preferred Agents

Potency group*	Corticosteroid	Corticosteroid / Strength / Vehicle Type	Avg Cost / Rx	Brand Name
Super-high potency (group 1)	Betamethasone dipropionate, augmented	BETAMETHASONE, AUGMENTED 0.05 % TOPICAL CREAM	\$30 - \$80	Diprolene
		BETAMETHASONE, AUGMENTED 0.05 % TOPICAL OINTMENT		Diprolene
		BETAMETHASONE, AUGMENTED 0.05 % LOTION	~ \$110	Diprolene
	Clobetasol propionate	CLOBETASOL-EMOLLIENT 0.05 % TOPICAL CREAM	\$50 - \$90	Clobex / Olux/ Temovate
		CLOBETASOL 0.05 % TOPICAL GEL		
		CLOBETASOL 0.05 % SCALP SOLUTION		
		CLOBETASOL 0.05 % TOPICAL CREAM		
		CLOBETASOL 0.05 % TOPICAL OINTMENT	~\$130	
		CLOBETASOL 0.05 % TOPICAL SPRAY / SHAMPOO	~\$250	
		CLOBETASOL-EMOLLIENT 0.05 % TOPICAL FOAM	~\$350	
		CLOBETASOL 0.05 % TOPICAL FOAM / LOTION		
	Halobetasol propionate	HALOBETASOL PROPIONATE 0.05 % TOPICAL CREAM	~\$150	Ultravate
		HALOBETASOL PROPIONATE 0.05 % TOPICAL OINTMENT		
Fluocinonide	FLUOCINONIDE 0.1 % TOPICAL CREAM	~\$350	Vanos	
High potency (group 2)	Fluocinonide	FLUOCINONIDE 0.05 % TOPICAL GEL	\$25 - \$50	Lidex
		FLUOCINONIDE 0.05 % TOPICAL CREAM		
		FLUOCINONIDE 0.05 % TOPICAL SOLUTION	\$70 - \$80	
		FLUOCINONIDE 0.05 % TOPICAL OINTMENT		
	Betamethasone dipropionate	BETAMETHASONE DIPROPIONATE 0.05 % TOPICAL OINTMENT	~\$110	Diprosone
		BETAMETHASONE DIPROPIONATE 0.05 % TOPICAL CREAM		
	Diflorasone diacetate	DIFLORASONE 0.05 % TOPICAL OINTMENT	\$250 - \$350	Florone
		DIFLORASONE 0.05 % TOPICAL CREAM		
	Desoximetasone	DESOXIMETASONE 0.25 % TOPICAL CREAM		Topicort
DESOXIMETASONE 0.25 % TOPICAL OINTMENT				
High potency (group 3)	Mometasone furoate	MOMETASONE 0.1 % TOPICAL OINTMENT	\$10 - \$20	Elocon
	Triamcinolone acetonide	TRIAMCINOLONE ACETONIDE 0.5 % TOPICAL CREAM		Kenalog
		TRIAMCINOLONE ACETONIDE 0.5 % TOPICAL OINTMENT		
	Triamcinolone acetonide	TRIAMCINOLONE ACETONIDE 0.1 % TOPICAL CREAM		Kenalog
		TRIAMCINOLONE ACETONIDE 0.1 % TOPICAL OINTMENT		
	Betamethasone valerate	BETAMETHASONE VALERATE 0.1 % TOPICAL OINTMENT	~ \$40	Valisone
		BETAMETHASONE VALERATE 0.12 % TOPICAL FOAM	\$389	Luxiq
	Desoximetasone	DESOXIMETASONE 0.05 % TOPICAL CREAM	\$236	Topicort
		DESOXIMETASONE 0.05 % TOPICAL OINTMENT	\$324	
Medium potency (group 4)	Mometasone furoate	MOMETASONE 0.1 % TOPICAL CREAM	~\$20	Elocon
	Betamethasone dipropionate	BETAMETHASONE DIPROPIONATE 0.05 % LOTION		Diprosone
	Fluocinolone acetonide	FLUOCINOLONE 0.025 % TOPICAL OINTMENT	~\$50	Synalar
	Hydrocortisone valerate	HYDROCORTISONE VALERATE 0.2 % TOPICAL OINTMENT	\$105	Westcort
HYDROCORTISONE VALERATE 0.2 % TOPICAL CREAM		\$120		
Lower-mid potency (group 5)	Betamethasone valerate	BETAMETHASONE VALERATE 0.1 % TOPICAL CREAM	\$30 - \$40	Valisone
	Fluocinolone acetonide	FLUOCINOLONE 0.025 % TOPICAL CREAM		Synalar
	Triamcinolone acetonide	TRIAMCINOLONE ACETONIDE 0.025 % LOTION		~\$9
		TRIAMCINOLONE ACETONIDE 0.025 % TOPICAL OINTMENT		
	Fluticasone propionate	FLUTICASONE 0.05 % TOPICAL CREAM	\$29	Cutivate
	Hydrocortisone valerate	HYDROCORTISONE VALERATE 0.2 % TOPICAL CREAM	\$70 - \$120	Westcort
	Prednicarbate	PREDNICARBATE 0.1 % TOPICAL CREAM		Dermatop
		DESONIDE 0.05 % TOPICAL OINTMENT		
	Desonide	DESONIDE 0.05% GEL	> \$360	DesOwen, Tridesilon
Triamcinolone acetonide		TRIAMCINOLONE ACETONIDE 0.1 % TOPICAL CREAM	~\$10	
	TRIAMCINOLONE ACETONIDE 0.1 % TOPICAL LOTION	~\$55		
Low potency (group 6)	Alclometasone dipropionate	ALCLOMETASONE 0.05 % TOPICAL CREAM	\$32	Aclovene
		ALCLOMETASONE 0.05 % TOPICAL OINTMENT	\$63	
	Betameth valerate	BETAMETHASONE VALERATE 0.1 % LOTION	\$41	Valisone
	Fluocinolone acetonide	FLUOCINOLONE 0.01 % TOPICAL CREAM	~\$40	Synalar
		FLUOCINOLONE 0.01 % TOPICAL SOLUTION	\$100 - \$150	Synalar
		FLUOCINOLONE 0.01 % SCALP OIL AND SHOWER CAP		Derma-Smoothe/FS
		FLUOCINOLONE 0.01 % TOPICAL BODY OIL		Derma-Smoothe/FS
	Desonide	DESONIDE 0.05 % TOPICAL CREAM /LOTION	\$130 - \$220	DesOwen, Tridesilon
Least potent (group 7)	Hydrocortisone (base, ≥2%)	HYDROCORTISONE 2.5 % LOTION	\$1 - \$20	Hytone, Nutracort, Texcort
		HYDROCORTISONE 2.5 % TOPICAL CREAM		
		HYDROCORTISONE 2.5 % TOPICAL OINTMENT / SOLN		
	Hydrocortisone (base, <2%)	HYDROCORTISONE 1 % TOPICAL CREAM (Oint, Lot, Spray, Soln)		Cortaid, Hytone
	Hydrocortisone acetate w/ pramoxine 1%	HYDROCORTISONE-PRAMOXINE 2.5 %-1 % TOPICAL CREAM Ointment, Lotion, Aerosol Foam (Epifoam)	> \$125	Pramosone, Analpram-HC

* Listed by potency according to the US classification system: group 1 is the most potent, group 7 is the least potent.

References: Adapted data from: Lexicomp Online. Copyright © 1978-2016 Lexicomp, Inc. All Rights Reserved; and Tadicherla S, Ross K, Shenefelt D, Topical corticosteroids in dermatology; Journal of Drugs in Dermatology 2009;

PL Detail-Documents, Comparison of Topical Corticosteroids. Pharmacist's Letter/Prescriber's Letter. September 2012.

NEPHO BCBS & HPHC DATA 2016 (Avg Cost/Rx)