



Drug cost alert: Topical corticosteroids

Save your patients money: Consider prescribing a tier 1 lower-cost alternative

- Consider prescribing a lower cost option for patients who are just starting on a topical corticosteroid or who can switch their existing prescription to one of the lower cost options listed. These are all available at tier 1 on the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts standard formulary.
- We've listed creams, ointments, and lotions because foam and gel formulations can be more expensive.
- Most members will pay less for one of these lower cost topical corticosteroids. If the medication is for long-term use, they also save money when they fill a 90-day supply through the Express Scripts PharmacySM (mail order).

Note: This is not a complete list of topical corticosteroids available to our members. For a complete list of covered medications (our formulary), including the medication's tier and any coverage requirements, visit our medication lookup tools on Provider Central at bluecrossma.com/provider. Click **Medication search** from the homepage.

Lower cost corticosteroids

Potency category	Drug name and strength	Cream	Ointment	Lotion	Available package size
Low potency	Alclometasone DIP 0.05%		✓		15 gm, 45 gm, 60 gm
	Hydrocortisone 2.5%	✓	✓	✓	20 gm, 28.35 gm, 59 ml, 118 ml
	Triamcinolone 0.025%	✓	✓	✓	15 gm, 80 gm, 60 ml
Medium potency	Betamethasone DIP 0.05%			✓	60 ml
	Betamethasone VAL 0.1%	✓	✓	✓	15 gm, 45 gm, 60 ml
	Fluticasone prop 0.005%		✓		15 gm, 30 gm, 60 gm
	Fluticasone prop 0.05%	✓			15 gm, 30 gm, 60 gm
	Mometasone furoate 0.1%	✓	✓		15 gm, 45 gm
	Triamcinolone 0.1%	✓		✓	15 gm, 30 gm, 80 gm, 60 ml
High potency	Betamethasone DIP AUG 0.05%	✓	✓	✓	15 gm, 50 gm, 30 ml, 60 ml
	Desoximetasone 0.25%	✓	✓		15 gm, 60 gm, 100 gm
	Fluocinonide 0.05%		✓		15 gm, 30 gm, 60 gm
	Fluocinonide-E 0.05%	✓			15 gm, 30 gm, 60 gm
	Triamcinolone 0.5%	✓	✓		15 gm
Very high potency	Clobetasol 0.05%	✓	✓	✓	15 gm, 30 gm, 45 gm, 60 gm, 59 ml, 118 ml
	Clobetasol emollient 0.05%	✓			15 gm, 30 gm, 45 gm, 60 gm

Coverage information contained in this document is current as of January 2020.