

Prescribing Tips: Topical Acne Medications

Topical acne medications at different strengths and drug forms, can cost significantly more than other clinically comparable alternatives.

What can you do for your patients who need acne medication?

When medically appropriate:

- Consider prescribing the lower-cost option when introducing a new medicine.
- Speak to patients who are taking these medicines about switching to a lower-cost option.

Commonly Prescribed Topical Acne Medications			
Cost per Claim*: \$ = \$1 – \$49; \$\$ = \$50 – \$99; \$\$\$ = \$100 – \$499; \$\$\$\$ = \$500 – \$999; \$\$\$\$\$ = \$1,000+			
Ingredient	Medication Name	Strength(s)	Cost per Claim*
ADAPALENE	DIFFERIN® Gel	0.1%	\$
	Adapalene Gel	0.1%, 0.3%	\$\$
	Adapalene Cream or DIFFERIN Cream	0.1%	\$\$\$
	DIFFERIN Gel	0.3%	\$\$\$
	DIFFERIN Lotion	0.1%	\$\$\$\$
	Adapalene Medicated Swab	0.1%	\$\$\$\$\$
ADAPALENE-BP	Adapalene-Benzoyl Peroxide Gel	0.1%–2.5%, 0.3%–2.5%	\$\$\$
	EPIDUO® Gel	0.1%–2.5%	\$\$\$
	EPIDUO FORTE Gel	0.3%–2.5%	\$\$\$\$
TAZAROTENE	Tazarotene Cream	0.1%	\$\$\$
	TAZORAC® Cream or Gel	0.05%, 0.1%	\$\$\$\$
	FABIOR® Foam	0.1%	\$\$\$\$
TRETINOIN	RETIN-A® Cream	0.025%, 0.05%, 0.1%	\$\$
	RETIN-A Gel	0.01%, 0.025%	\$\$
	ALTRENO® Lotion	0.05%	\$\$\$
	Tretinoin Cream	0.025%, 0.05%, 0.1%	\$\$\$
	Tretinoin Gel	0.01%, 0.025%, 0.05%	\$\$\$
	Tretinoin Microsphere Gel	0.04%, 0.1%	\$\$\$
	RETIN-A MICRO® Gel	0.04%, 0.06%, 0.08%, 0.1%	\$\$\$\$

* Average overall EmblemHealth/ConnectiCare pricing per prescription as of Q2 2024. Medication coverage may vary by patient and line of business.

Commonly Prescribed Topical Acne Medications

Cost per Claim*: \$ = \$1 – \$49; \$\$ = \$50 – \$99; \$\$\$ = \$100 – \$499; \$\$\$\$ = \$500 – \$999; \$\$\$\$\$ = \$1,000

Ingredient	Medication Name	Strength(s)	Cost per Claim*
CLINDAMYCIN	Clindamycin Phosphate Pledge	1%	\$
	CLINDACIN® ETZ or CLINDACIN P Pledge	1%	\$
	Clindamycin Phosphate Topical Solution	1%	\$
	Clindamycin Phosphate Gel (Generic CLEOCIN® T)	1%	\$\$
	Clindamycin Phosphate Lotion	1%	\$\$
	Clindamycin Phosphate Foam	1%	\$\$\$
	CLINDACIN PAC Kit	1%	\$\$\$\$
	Clindamycin Phosphate Gel (Generic CLINDAGEL®)	1%	\$\$\$\$
	CLINDAGEL Gel	1%	\$\$\$\$\$
CLINDAMYCIN-BP	NEUAC® Gel or Generic	1.2%–5%	\$\$
	Clindamycin–Benzoyl Peroxide Gel	1%–5%, 1.2%–2.5%	\$\$\$
	BENZAclin® Gel	1%–5%	\$\$\$
	ACANYA® Gel	1.2%–2.5%	\$\$\$
	ONEXTON® Gel	1.2%–3.75%	\$\$\$\$
CLINDAMYCIN-TRETINOIN	Clindamycin–Tretinoin Gel	1.2–0.025%	\$\$\$
	ZIANA® Gel	1.2–0.025%	\$\$\$
	VELTIN® Gel	1.2–0.025%	\$\$\$\$
DAPSONE	Dapsone Gel	5%, 7.5%	\$\$\$
	ACZONE® Gel	5%, 7.5%	\$\$\$\$
ERYTHROMYCIN	Erythromycin Topical Solution	2%	\$
	ERY® Medicated Pads	2%	\$\$
	Erythromycin Gel	2%	\$\$
ERYTHROMYCIN-BP	Erythromycin–Benzoyl Peroxide Gel	3%–5%	\$\$
SULFACETAMIDE	Sodium Sulfacetamide Lotion & Suspension	10%	\$\$
SULFACETAMIDE-SULFUR (SSS)	SSS 10–5 Cream	10–5%	\$\$
	Generic Cream, Cleanser, Lotion, or Suspension	Various Strengths	\$\$\$
	SSS 10–5 Foam	10%–5%	\$\$\$
	PLEXION® Cream, Cleanser, or Lotion	9.8%–4.8%	\$\$\$\$
	AVAR® or AVAR LS Cleanser	10%–5% or 10%–2% LS	\$\$\$\$
	SUMADAN® Cleanser	9%–4.5%	\$\$\$\$

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Please call our clinical pharmacist **929-988-1834** if you need additional information.