

Drug Policy

Policy:	Otic Antibiotics Step Therapy	Annual Review Date: 08/22/2024
Impacted Drugs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cipro HC Otic • Ciprodex • Otovel 	Last Revised Date: 08/22/2024

OVERVIEW

All of these products are indicated for the treatment of patients with ear infection.

- **Acute otitis externa** due to susceptible isolates of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Staphylococcus aureus*: Cetraxal, Ciprodex, generic ciprofloxacin 0.2% otic solution, Cipro HC OTIC.¹⁻⁴ Cipro HC OTIC is also active against acute otitis externa due to *Proteus mirabilis*.⁴
- **Acute otitis media with tympanostomy tubes** due to *S. aureus*, *Haemophilus influenzae*, *Moraxella catarrhalis*, and *P. aeruginosa*: Ciprodex, Otovel, ciprofloxacin 0.3%/fluocinolone acetonide 0.025% otic solution.^{2,5,8}

Cetraxal is a brand-only single-entity product containing ciprofloxacin 0.2%; ciprofloxacin 0.2% otic solution is also available as a generic product.^{1,3} Ciprodex, Cipro HC OTIC, ciprofloxacin 0.3%/fluocinolone acetonide 0.025% otic solution, and Otovel are combination products containing a corticosteroid.^{2,4,5,8}

Ciprofloxacin otic solution, Cetraxal, ciprofloxacin 0.3%/fluocinolone acetonide 0.025% otic solution, and Otovel are preservative-free products.^{1,3,5,8} Ciprodex is preserved with benzalkonium chloride and Cipro HC OTIC is preserved with benzyl alcohol.^{2,4}

POLICY STATEMENT

A preferred step therapy program has been developed to encourage the use of a preferred product prior to the use of a non-preferred product. If the preferred step therapy rule is not met for a non-preferred agent at the point of service, coverage will be determined by the preferred step therapy criteria below. All approvals are provided for 1 year in duration.

Automation: A patient with a history of one Step 1 Product within the 130-day look-back period is excluded from Step Therapy.

Preferred Medications

- Generic ciprofloxacin 0.2% otic solution
- Generic ciprofloxacin-dexamethasone 0.3%-0.1% otic solution

Non-Preferred Medication

- Cipro HC Otic (ciprofloxacin-hydrocortisone 0.2%-0.1%)

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- Ciprodex (ciprofloxacin-dexamethasone 0.3%-0.1%)
- Otovel (ciprofloxacin-fluocinolone acetonide 0.3%-0.025%)

PREFERRED STEP THERAPY CRITERIA

1. If the patient has tried a preferred medication, then authorization for a non-preferred medication may be given.

Initial Approval/ Extended Approval.

A) *Initial Approval:* 1 year

B) *Extended Approval:* 1 year

Step Therapy Exception Criteria

Approve for 1 year if the patient meets the following (A, B, or C):

- A. The patient has an atypical diagnosis and/or unique patient characteristics which prevent use of all preferred agents. If so, please list diagnosis and/or patient characteristics **[documentation required]; OR**
- B. The patient has a contraindication to all preferred agents. If so, please list the contraindications to each preferred agent **[documentation required]; OR**
- C. The patient is continuing therapy with the requested non-preferred agent after being stable for at least 90 days [verification in prescription claims history required] or, if not available, [verification by prescribing physician required] AND meets ONE of the following:
 1. The patient has at least 130 days of prescription claims history on file and claims history supports that the patient has received the requested non-preferred agent for 90 days within a 130-day look-back period AND there is no generic equivalent available for the requested nonpreferred product (i.e. AA-rated or AB-rated to the requested nonpreferred product); OR
 2. When 130 days of the patient's prescription claims history file is unavailable for verification, the prescriber must verify that the patient has been receiving the requested non-preferred agent for 90 days AND that the patient has been receiving the requested non-preferred agent via paid claims (i.e. the patient has NOT been receiving samples or coupons or other types of waivers in order to obtain access to the requested non-preferred agent) AND there is no generic equivalent available for the requested nonpreferred product (i.e. AA-rated or AB-rated to the requested nonpreferred product).

Documentation Required: When documentation is required, the prescriber must provide written documentation supporting the trials of these other agents, noted in the criteria as **[documentation required]**. Documentation should include chart notes, prescription claims records, and/or prescription receipts.

Approval Duration: All approvals for continuation of therapy are provided for 1 year unless noted otherwise below. In cases where the initial approval is authorized in months, 1 month is equal to 30 days.

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Documentation Requirements:

The Company reserves the right to request additional documentation as part of its coverage determination process. The Company may deny reimbursement when it has determined that the drug provided or services performed were not medically necessary, investigational or experimental, not within the scope of benefits afforded to the member and/or a pattern of billing or other practice has been found to be either inappropriate or excessive. Additional documentation supporting medical necessity for the services provided must be made available upon request to the Company. Documentation requested may include patient records, test results and/or credentials of the provider ordering or performing a service. The Company also reserves the right to modify, revise, change, apply and interpret this policy at its sole discretion, and the exercise of this discretion shall be final and binding.

REFERENCES

1. Cetraxal® otic solution [prescribing information]. Ridgeland, MS: WraSer; May 2009.
2. Ciprodex® otic suspension [prescribing information]. East Hanover, NJ: Novartis; February 2019.
3. Ciprofloxacin otic solution [prescribing information]. Madison, MS: Xspire Pharma; August 2012.
4. Cipro® HC Otic suspension [prescribing information]. Fort Worth, TX: Alcon; March 2017.
5. Otovel® otic solution [prescribing information]. Atlanta, GA: Arbor; April 2016.
6. Rosenfeld RM, Schwartz SR, Cannon CR, et al. Clinical practice guideline: Acute otitis externa. *Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg.* 2014;150:S1-S24.
7. Rosenfeld RM, Schwartz SR, Pynnonen MA, et al. Clinical Practice Guideline: Tympanostomy tubes in children. *Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg.* 2013;149(1 Suppl):S1-35.
8. Ciprofloxacin/fluocinolone acetonide otic solution [prescribing information]. Ridgeland, MS: Xspire; June 2021.