Clinical Policy: Halcinonide (Halog)

Reference Number: HIM.PA.20
Effective Date: 08.28.18
Last Review Date: 11.26
Line of Business: HIM/ICHRA

Revision Log

See Important Reminder at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

Description

Halcinonide (Halog®) is a high potency topical corticosteroid with anti-inflammatory, antipruritic and vasoconstrictive actions.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Halog is indicated for the relief of the inflammatory and pruritic manifestations of corticosteroid-responsive dermatoses.

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® that Halog is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Dermatologic Inflammation and Pruritus (must meet all)**:**

1. Diagnosis of dermatologic inflammation or pruritus;
2. Failure of two formulary high potency topical corticosteroids in the previous 6 months, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced *(see Appendix B for examples)*;†
   †For Illinois HIM requests, the step therapy requirements above do not apply as of 1/1/2026 per IL HB 5395
3. Member meets one of the following (a or b), unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced:
   a. If request is for brand Halog cream or ointment, member must use generic halcinonide cream;
   b. For Illinois HIM requests only: If request is for brand Halog cream, member must use generic halcinonide cream;
   **Prior authorization may be required for generic halcinonide cream*
4. Dose does not exceed (a and b):
   a. 60 gm per month;
   b. One tube per month.

Approval duration: 12 months

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

1. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to one of the following policies (a or b):
   a. For drugs on the formulary (health insurance marketplace/ICHRA), the no coverage criteria policy for the relevant line of business: HIM.PA.33 for health insurance marketplace/ICHRA; or
   b. For drugs NOT on the formulary (health insurance marketplace/ICHRA), the non-formulary policy for the relevant line of business: HIM.PA.103 for health insurance marketplace/ICHRA; or
2. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business: HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace/ICHRA.

II. Continued Therapy

A. Dermatologic Inflammation and Pruritus (must meet all)**:**

1. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
   a. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
   b. Member is currently receiving medication and is enrolled in a state and product with continuity of care regulations (*refer to state specific addendums for CC.PHARM.03A and CC.PHARM.03B);*
2. Member is responding positively to therapy;
3. Member meets one of the following (a or b), unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced:
   a. If request is for brand Halog cream or ointment, member must use generic halcinonide cream;
   b. For Illinois HIM requests only: If request is for brand Halog cream, member must use generic halcinonide cream;

   **Prior authorization may be required for generic halcinonide cream*
4. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed (a and b):
   a. 60 gm per month;
   b. One tube per month.

Approval duration: 12 months

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

1. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to one of the following policies (a or b):
   a. For drugs on the formulary (health insurance marketplace/ICHRA), the no coverage criteria policy for the relevant line of business: HIM.PA.33 for health insurance marketplace/ICHRA; or
   b. For drugs NOT on the formulary (health insurance marketplace/ICHRA), the non-formulary policy for the relevant line of business: HIM.PA.103 for health insurance marketplace/ICHRA; or

2. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business: HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace/ICHRA.

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 – HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace/ICHRA 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/ Maximum Dose
augmented betamethasone 0.05% gel, cream, ointment, lotion (Diprolene®)	Apply topically to the affected area(s) BID	Should not be used for longer than 2 consecutive weeks
clobetasol propionate 0.05% cream, ointment, gel, solution (Temovate®)	Apply topically to the affected area(s) BID	Should not be used for longer than 2 consecutive weeks
diflorasone diacetate 0.05% ointment, cream (Apexicon®, Psorcon®)	Apply topically to the affected area(s) BID	Should not be used for longer than 2 consecutive weeks
halobetasol propionate 0.05% cream, ointment (Ultravate®)	Apply topically to the affected area(s) BID	Should not be used for longer than 2 consecutive weeks
fluocinonide acetonide 0.05% cream, ointment, gel, solution (Lidex®)	Apply topically to the affected area(s) BID	Should not be used for longer than 2 consecutive weeks
desoximetasone 0.25% cream, ointment (Topicort®)	Apply topically to the affected area(s) BID	Should not be used for longer than 2 consecutive weeks
desoximetasone 0.05% cream, gel (Topicort®)	Apply topically to the affected area(s) BID	Should not be used for longer than 2 consecutive weeks
Mometasone furoate 0.1% ointment, cream	Apply topically to the affected area(s) QD	Should not be used for longer than 2 consecutive weeks

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

Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings

- Contraindication(s): history of hypersensitivity to any of the components of the preparation
- Boxed warning(s): none reported

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
Dermatologic inflammation and pruritus	Apply to the affected area BID to TID	3 applications/day

VI. Product Availability

- Cream (0.1%): 30 g, 60 g
- Ointment (0.1%): 60 g

VII. References

1. Halog Cream Prescribing Information. Cranbury, NJ: Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, Inc.; January 2019. Available at: https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/lookup.cfm?setid=e60d0691-0628-4c98-9a17-f4a89822baf2. Accessed July 13, 2026.
2. Halog Ointment Prescribing Information. Cranbury, NJ: Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, Inc.; January 2025. Available at: https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/drugInfo.cfm?setid=4f6ffa29-577b-4377-a068-0846df221771. Accessed July 22, 2026.
3. Clinical Pharmacology [database online]. Tampa, FL: Gold Standard, Inc.; 2026. Available at: https://www.clinicalkey.com/pharmacology/. Accessed July 22, 2026.

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
4Q 2022 annual review: no significant changes; added redirection to generic halcinonide cream for brand Halog requests; removed 30 g ointment tube formulation as it is no longer commercially available; references reviewed and updated. Template changes applied to other diagnoses/indications and continued therapy section.	07.20.22	11.22
4Q 2023 annual review: added redirection to generic halcinonide cream for brand Halog requests in continued therapy section; added "prior authorization may be required for generic halcinonide cream" in criteria; removed brand Elocon from Appendix B as it is currently off-market; references reviewed and updated.	06.29.23	11.23
4Q 2024 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	07.19.24	11.24
4Q 2025 annual review: no significant changes; added step therapy bypass for IL HIM per IL HB 5395 by revised redirection to generic halcinonide cream for brand Halog cream requests only for IL HIM per IL HB 5395; references reviewed and updated.	07.10.25	11.25

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
4Q 2026 annual review: no significant changes; added ICHRA line of business; references reviewed and updated.	07.13.26	11.26

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.

Providers referred to in this clinical policy are independent contractors who exercise independent judgment and over whom the Health Plan has no control or right of control. Providers are not agents or employees of the Health Plan.

This clinical policy is the property of the Health Plan. Unauthorized copying, use, and distribution of this clinical policy or any information contained herein are strictly prohibited. Providers, members, and their representatives are bound to the terms and conditions expressed herein through the terms of their contracts. Where no such contract exists, providers, members and their representatives agree to be bound by such terms and conditions by providing services to members and/or submitting claims for payment for such services.

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