

## Policies Repository



**Policy Title** Calcipotriene and betamethasone dipropionate (Taclonex®/Taclonex Scalp®)

**Policy Number** FS.CLIN.65

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*Members are advised to use participating pharmacies in order to receive the highest level of benefits.*

**Policy** Calcipotriene and betamethasone dipropionate (Taclonex®/Taclonex Scalp®) is indicated for the topical treatment of psoriasis vulgaris in adults 18 years of age and older.

The use of calcipotriene and betamethasone dipropionate (Taclonex®/Taclonex Scalp®) requires prior authorization (ie, clinical pharmacy and/or Medical Director review).

**Policy Description** Calcipotriene and betamethasone dipropionate (Taclonex®/Taclonex Scalp®) is a combination of calcipotriene and betamethasone dipropionate. Calcipotriene is a synthetic analog of vitamin D3. Calcipotriene inhibits keratinocyte proliferation and

induces terminal differentiation of keratinocytes which reverses the abnormal keratinocyte change in psoriasis. Betamethasone dipropionate is a steroid that induces phospholipase A2 inhibitory proteins. These proteins inhibit the release of arachidonic acid, which is the precursor to inflammatory mediators such as prostaglandins and leukotrienes.

### Policy Guideline Inclusion

**Calcipotriene and betamethasone dipropionate (Taclonex®/Taclonex Scalp®)** is approved when **both** of the following inclusion criteria are met:

- Documentation of psoriasis vulgaris in adults 18 years of age or older
- Documentation of the trial and failure of/intolerance to concurrent use of calcipotriene (Dovonex®) and a topical betamethasone product

### Policy Guideline Exclusion

**Calcipotriene and betamethasone dipropionate (Taclonex®/Taclonex Scalp®)** is denied when **any** of the following exclusion criteria are present:

- No documentation of psoriasis vulgaris in adults 18 years of age or older
- No documentation of the trial and failure of/intolerance to concurrent use of calcipotriene (Dovonex®) and a topical betamethasone product

### Policy List of Applicable Drugs

Brand Name	Generic Name
Taclonex/Taclonex Scalp	Calcipotriene and betamethasone dipropionate

### Dosing and Administration

Refer to the specific manufacturer's prescribing information for administration and dosage details for each specific agent.

### Policy References

Calcipotriene and betamethasone dipropionate (Taclonex®/Taclonex Scalp®). In: Facts and Comparisons [online through Facts and Comparisons Online]. Indy, IN: Walter Kluwer Health Inc. Accessed December 3, 2010.

Calcipotriene and betamethasone dipropionate (Taclonex®/Taclonex Scalp®). In: Drugdex [online through Micromedex Healthcare Series]. Greenwood

Village, CO: Thomson Micromedex. Accessed December 3, 2010.

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Kaufmann R, Bibby AJ, Bissonnette R, et al. A new calcipotriol/betamethasone dipropionate formulation (Daviobet) is an effective once daily treatment for psoriasis vulgaris. *Dermatology*. 2002;205(4):389-393.

Papp KA, Guenther L, Boyden B, et al. Early onset of action and efficacy of a combination of calcipotriene and betamethasone dipropionate in the treatment of psoriasis. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2003;48(1);48-54.

Patel B, Siskin S, Krazmien R, Lebwohl M. Compatibility of calcipotriene with other topical medications. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 1998;38(6 Pt 1);1010-1011.

Taclonex [package insert]. Rockaway, NJ: Warner Chilcott; July 2008.

Taclonex Scalp® Topical Suspension [package insert]. Rockaway, NJ: Warner Chilcott; 2008. Also available online at:  
<http://www.taclonex.com/flash/TaclonexScalpPI.pdf>. Site no longer active.

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## Policy Link to Related Policies

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