



UnitedHealthcare Pharmacy  
Clinical Pharmacy Programs

Program Number	2023 P 2274-2
Program	Prior Authorization – Medical Necessity
Medication	Verkazia (cyclosporine 0.1% ophthalmic emulsion)
P&T Approval Date	5/2022, 5/2023
Effective Date	8/1/2023; Oxford only: 8/1/2023

**1. Background:**

Verkazia (cyclosporine 0.1%) ophthalmic emulsion is indicated for the treatment of vernal keratoconjunctivitis in children and adults.

**2. Coverage Criteria<sup>a</sup>:**

**A. Initial Authorization**

1. **Verkazia** will be approved based on **both** the following criteria:

a. Diagnosis of moderate to severe vernal keratoconjunctivitis

**-AND-**

b. History of failure, contraindication, or intolerance to **two** of the following categories:

1. ophthalmic antihistamines (e.g., azelastine, olopatadine)
2. ophthalmic mast cell stabilizers (e.g., cromolyn sodium)
3. ophthalmic corticosteroids (e.g., dexamethasone, prednisolone, fluorometholone)

**Authorization will be issued for 12 months.**

**B. Reauthorization**

1. **Verkazia** will be approved based on the following criterion:

a. Documentation of positive clinical response

**Authorization will be issued for 12 months.**

<sup>a</sup> State mandates may apply. Any federal regulatory requirements and the member specific benefit plan coverage may also impact coverage criteria. Other policies and utilization management programs may apply.

**3. Additional Clinical Programs:**

- Supply limits may be in place
- Notwithstanding Coverage Criteria, UnitedHealthcare may approve initial and re-authorization based solely on previous claim/medication history, diagnosis codes (ICD-10) and/or claim logic. Use of automated approval and re-approval processes varies by program and/or therapeutic class.



**4. References:**

1. Verkazia [package insert]. Emeryville, CA: Santen Inc.; June 2022.
2. Leonardi A, Doan S, Amrane M, et al. A Randomized, Controlled Trial of Cyclosporine A Cationic Emulsion in Pediatric Vernal Keratoconjunctivitis. *Ophthalmology* 2019;126(5):671-681.
3. Kraus C. Vernal Keratoconjunctivitis. American Academy of Ophthalmology, Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Pediatric Ophthalmology Education Center. Available at: <https://www.aao.org/disease-review/vernalkeratoconjunctivitis-5>. Accessed April 2022.
4. Olsen, TW, et. al. Conjunctivitis Preferred Practice Pattern. American Academy of Ophthalmology. 2018.

Program	Prior Authorization – Medical Necessity - Verkazia
<b>Change Control</b>	
5/2022	New program.
5/2023	Annual review. Updated references.