### Covered Medication

- Tazarotene Cream (Tazorac® Cream)

### What it does and How it’s used

Acne is a common skin disorder characterized by plugging of the hair follicles, increased sebum production by the sebaceous glands, bacterial colonization of the sebaceous follicles, and inflammation. This results in the formation of whiteheads, blackheads, red papules or pustules, nodules, cysts, or abscesses on the skin. Topical agents are considered first line therapy for the treatment of acne.

Psoriasis is a non-contagious, chronic skin disorder that tends to be hereditary and autoimmune in nature. Individuals with certain genetic predisposition have an immune system that sends faulty signals to rapidly accelerate the growth cycle in skin cells. These skin cells pile up on the surface, and since the body cannot shed them fast enough, red scaling patches result. Plaque psoriasis is the most common form of the disease. Other symptoms include itching, cracking and blistering of the palms or soles of the feet, which may lead to disfigurement and/or disability.

Tazarotene is available as a 0.05% and 0.1% strength gel and cream. Both formulations are used for the treatment of plaque psoriasis as well as for treating mild to moderate facial acne.

Tazarotene suppresses the production of an inflammatory substance present in high levels in the epidermal skin layer of psoriasis subjects. In addition, it is found to normalize the process by which the skin forms its outer protective layer. This mechanism is beneficial for treating both psoriasis and acne.

In contrast to normal skin, photo-damaged skin is characteristically rough, leathery, and has a thickened outer protective layer with a thinned secondary layer. Tazarotene has been shown to be effective for the treatment of photo-damaged skin by increasing secondary skin layer thickness and decreasing skin roughness.

### Rationale for Coverage Authorization

To reduce exposure to cost associated with uncovered uses of Tazorac® cream such as for use in the treatment of photodamaged skin.

### Benefit Design

Coverage will be determined through a prior authorization process for every claim.

### Coverage Authorization Criteria

Coverage is provided for Tazorac® cream for treatment of acne or psoriasis. Coverage duration: 12 months. Benefit may be renewed.

### References

Product Information : Tazarotene Cream (Tazorac® – Allergan 2004)

Kang S, Leyden JJ, Lowe NJ, et. Al. Tazarotene cream for the treatment of facial photodamage : A multicenter, investigator-masked, vehicle-controlled, parallel comparison of 0.01%, 0.025%, 0.05%, and 0.1% tazarotene creams with 0.05% tretinoin emollient cream applied once daily for 24 weeks. Archives of Dermatology. December, 2001;137:1597-1604.