



AETNA BETTER HEALTH®  
Coverage Policy/Guideline

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|-----------------|---|--|--|
| Name:           | Cequa and Cyclosporine Ophthalmic Emulsion  | Page:  | 1 of 2   |
| Effective Date: | 3/4/2024  | Last Review Date:  | 01/2024  |
| Applies to:     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illinois<br><input type="checkbox"/> New Jersey<br><input type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania Kids | <input type="checkbox"/> Florida<br><input type="checkbox"/> Maryland<br><input type="checkbox"/> Virginia | <input type="checkbox"/> Florida Kids<br><input type="checkbox"/> Michigan<br><input type="checkbox"/> Texas |

### Intent:

The intent of this policy/guideline is to provide information to the prescribing practitioner outlining the coverage criteria for Cequa and Cyclosporine Ophthalmic Emulsion under the patient's prescription drug benefit.

### Description:

Cequa ophthalmic solution is a calcineurin inhibitor immunosuppressant indicated to increase tear production in patients with keratoconjunctivitis sicca (dry eye).

Cyclosporine Ophthalmic Emulsion is indicated to increase tear production in patients whose tear production is presumed to be suppressed due to ocular inflammation associated with keratoconjunctivitis sicca. Increased tear production was not seen in patients currently taking topical anti-inflammatory drugs or using punctal plugs.

### Applicable Drug List:

Formulary Drug: Cyclosporine Ophthalmic Emulsion Vial

Non-Formulary Drug: Cequa

### Policy/Guideline:

The requested drug will be covered with prior authorization when the following criteria are met:

- The request is not for continuation of therapy  
**AND**
  - The requested drug is being prescribed for dry eye disease  
**AND**
    - The patient has experienced an inadequate treatment response to an artificial tears product  
**OR**
    - The patient has experienced an intolerance to an artificial tears product  
**OR**
    - The patient has a contraindication that would prohibit a trial of an artificial tears product
- OR**
- The request is for continuation of therapy  
**AND**
  - The requested drug is being prescribed for dry eye disease  
**AND**



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- The patient achieved or maintained improvement in their signs and symptoms of dry eye disease from baseline, (e.g., ocular irritation, redness, mucous discharge, reduced visual function, ocular surface damage, reduced tear production)

Quantity Limits apply

### Approval Duration and Quantity Restrictions:

**Approval:** 12 months

### Quantity Level Limit:

Cequa vials: 60 vials per month

Cyclosporine Ophthalmic Emulsion vial: 60 vials per month or 1 multi-dose bottle (5.5mL) per month

### References:

- Cequa [package insert]. Cranbury, NJ: Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, Inc.; July 2022.
- Restasis [package insert]. Irvine, CA: Allergan, Inc; July 2017.
- Restasis Multidose [package insert]. Irvine, CA: Allergan, Inc; October 2016.
- Vevye [package insert]. Irvine, CA: Alliance Medical Products, Inc; June 2023.
- Lexicomp Online, AHFS DI (Adult and Pediatric) Online. Waltham, MA: UpToDate, Inc.; 2023. <https://online.lexi.com>. Accessed September 29, 2023.
- Micromedex (electronic version). Merative, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA. Available at: <https://www.micromedexsolutions.com/> (cited: 08/04/2023).
- Akpek EK, Amescua G, Farid M, et al. Dry Eye Syndrome Preferred Practice Pattern. Ophthalmology. 2019;126(1):P286-P334.
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