CARECONTINUUM™

UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT MEDICAL POLICY

POLICY: Ophthalmology – Epioxa and Epioxa HD Utilization Management Medical Policy
- Epioxa® (riboflavin 5'-phosphate ophthalmic solution, 0.177% – Avedro/Glaukos)
- Epioxa® HD (riboflavin 5'-phosphate ophthalmic solution, 0.239% – Avedro/Glaukos)

REVIEW DATE: 08/05/2026

OVERVIEW

Epioxa and Epioxa HD are indicated in epithelium-on corneal collagen cross-linking for the treatment of **keratoconus** in adults and pediatric patients ≥ 13 years of age, in conjunction with the O_2n System and the Boost Goggles.[1]

Dosing and Administration

Epioxa and Epioxa HD are used during a corneal collagen cross-linking procedure, in conjunction with the O_2n System and the Boost Goggles.[1] A cellulose spear sponge soaked with Epioxa HD is used to remove the mucin layer from the corneal surface without debriding the corneal epithelium (epithelium-on); the sponge is swiped 4 to 10 times horizontally and vertically. Then, apply two drops of Epioxa HD to the eyes every 60 seconds for 4 minutes, followed by two drops of Epioxa to the eye every 30 seconds for 6 minutes. Refer to the *O_2n System Operator's Manual* and *Boost Goggles User Guide* for device instructions.

An Epithelium-on Cross-linking kit contains a single-dose syringe of Epioxa and a single-dose syringe of Epioxa HD.

Disease Overview

Keratoconus is a disease of the cornea where the cornea thins out and bulges like a cone.[2-4] The prevalence is estimated to be between 0.2 cases and 4,790 cases per 100,000 persons; individuals of Middle Eastern and Asian ethnicities are most affected.[2] The cause is not known but risk factors include eye allergies, eye rubbing, family history, and connective tissue disorders, such as Marfan syndrome and Ehlers-Danlos syndrome.[2-4]

Keratoconus usually starts in the late teens to early 20s; symptoms slowly progress over a period of 10 years to 20 years.[2-4] Early symptoms include mild blurred or distorted vision, increased light and glare sensitivity, and eye redness or swelling. In advanced cases, patients experience high myopia, irregular astigmatism, and stromal scars, all of which can lead to significant visual impairment.

Choice of therapy depends on the patient's age, severity of the disease, and possible complications from the treatment modalities.[2-4] Mild cases can be corrected with eyeglasses or soft contact lenses. Corneal collagen cross-linking procedures and corneal transplants are needed for keratoconus that have progressed.

POLICY STATEMENT

Prior Authorization is recommended for medical benefit coverage of Epioxa and Epioxa HD. Approval is recommended for those who meet the **Criteria** and **Dosing** for the listed indication. Requests for doses outside of the established dosing documented in this policy will be considered on a case-by-case basis by a clinician (i.e., Medical Director or Pharmacist). One Epithelium-on Cross-linking kit will be approved. The approval duration is 90 days to allow for an adequate timeframe to receive the procedure. Because of

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the specialized skills required for evaluation and diagnosis of patients treated with Epioxa and Epioxa HD as well as the monitoring required for adverse events and long-term efficacy, approval requires Epioxa and Epioxa HD to be prescribed by or in consultation with a physician who specializes in the condition being treated.

Automation: None.

RECOMMENDED AUTHORIZATION CRITERIA

Coverage of Epioxa and Epioxa HD is recommended in those who meet the following criteria:

FDA-Approved Indication

1. **Keratoconus.** Approve one Epithelium-on Cross-linking kit if the patient meets ALL of the following (A, B, C, and D):
   Note: An Epithelium-on Cross-linking kit contains one single-dose syringe of Epioxa and one single-dose syringe of Epioxa HD.
   A) Patient is ≥ 13 years of age; AND
   B) The medications will be used during a corneal collagen cross-linking procedure; AND
   C) The medications will be used in conjunction with the O_2n System and the Boost Goggles; AND
   D) The medications are administered by an ophthalmologist or a physician who specializes in corneal disorders and performs corneal collagen cross-linking procedures.

   Dosing. Approve one Epithelium-on Cross-linking kit; each kit contains a single-dose syringe of Epioxa and a single-dose syringe of Epioxa HD.

CONDITIONS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

Coverage of Epioxa and Epioxa HD is not recommended in the following situations:

1. Coverage is not recommended for circumstances not listed in the Recommended Authorization Criteria. Criteria will be updated as new published data are available.

REFERENCES

1. Epioxa, Epioxa HD [prescribing information]. Burlington MA: Avedro, a Glaukos company: October 2025.
2. Bui AD, Truong A, Pasricha ND, Indaram M. Keratoconus diagnosis and treatment; recent advances and future directions. Clin Ophthal. 2023;17:2705-2718.
3. Pagan-Duran B. American Academy of Ophthalmology – What is keratoconus. Available at: https://www.aao.org/eye-health/diseases/what-is-keratoconus. Published on January 6, 2026. Accessed on July 27, 2026.
4. Nuzbrokh Y, Rosenberg E, Nattis A. Diagnosis and management of keratoconus. Available at: https://www.aao.org/eyenet/article/diagnosis-and-management-of-keratoconus#:~:text=Keratoconus%20(KC)%20is%20a%20bilateral%2C,of%20a%20thinned%20central%20cornea. Accessed on July 28, 2026.

HISTORY

Type of Revision	Summary of Changes	Review Date
New Policy	--	08/05/2026

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