

Clinical Policy: Immunization Coverage

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Effective Date: 01/18

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[Revision Log](#)

Description

The intent of the criteria is to ensure that patients follow selection elements established by of Pennsylvania Health and Wellness® clinical policy for immunizations.

Policy/Criteria

It is the policy of Pennsylvania Health and Wellness® that childhood and adult immunizations are **medically necessary** when listed within and given in accordance with the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). A prior authorization will not be required for those immunizations listed within and given within accordance to the ACIP and/or the specific product labeling. ACIP recommendations can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/index.html>. A summary of the recommended immunization schedules can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/index.html>.

Immunizations that fall outside of these guidelines will require a prior authorization and will be reviewed based upon package labeling, ACIP recommendations, and/or medical compendia and literature.

Note: The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program provides immunizations at no cost for members between the ages of 0-18 years. Additional information about VFC can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/index.html>.

Background

Immunity can be acquired through an active or passive mechanism. Active immunity is when an individual's own immune system produces antibodies in response to a disease organism, while passive immunity is when antibodies are given directly to the individual. Active immunity is much longer lasting than passive immunity (up to life-long versus only weeks to months).

Immunizations typically confer active immunity. Exposure to a killed or weakened form of the disease organism stimulates antibody production, allowing the body to more effectively resist or overcome infections caused by said organism. Immunization not only protects the person who receives the immunization, but also those who are not immunized with whom they are in contact. Immunizations serve to prevent certain infectious diseases from spreading in the general public. Immunizations should be started early and continued through the recommended schedule.

Appendices

Appendix A: Abbreviation Key

CLINICAL POLICY

Immunization coverage



ACIP: Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices
VFC: Vaccines for Children

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	Approval Date
Removed language/table referencing age limits in product information. References reviewed and updated.	08/18	

References

1. Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) vaccine recommendations. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/index.html>. Updated January 26, 2018. Accessed March 22, 2018.
2. Vaccine immunization schedules. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/index.html>. Updated May 26, 2016. Accessed March 22, 2018.
3. Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/index.html>. Updated April 24, 2014. Accessed March 22, 2018.
4. Immunity types. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/immunity-types.htm>. Updated August 18, 2017. Accessed March 22, 2018.