

Clinical Policy: Immunization Coverage

Reference Number: PA.CP.PHAR.28

Effective Date: 01/2018

Last Review Date: 07/2023

[Revision Log](#)

Description

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.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Immunizations are used to prevent a variety of infectious diseases. They should be started early and continued through the recommended schedule.

Policy/Criteria

It is the policy of PA Health & 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 <https://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.

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Request for Childhood or Adult Immunization (must meet all):

1. There exists no product-specific clinical policy or custom coverage criteria;
2. Requested immunization will be given in accordance with the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) (*see Appendix D*);
3. If request is for a single antigen which is recommended to be given in a combination vaccine (e.g., mumps, measles, rubella, diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis), documentation supports medical necessity for administration of the single antigen.

Approval duration: Not applicable

II. Continued Therapy: Not applicable

III. Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized:

- A. Immunizations recommended for travelers or military personnel, including but not limited to: adenovirus, anthrax, Japanese encephalitis, smallpox (vaccinia), typhoid, and yellow fever.

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).

Appendices

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key

ACIP: Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

VFC: Vaccines for Children

Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives

Not applicable

Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings

Refer to each product's prescribing information.

Appendix D: General Information

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

References

1. Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) vaccine recommendations. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. Page last reviewed March 13, 2023. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/index.html>. Accessed May 30, 2023.
2. Vaccine immunization schedules. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. Page last reviewed February 10, 2023. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/index.html>. Accessed May 30, 2023.
3. Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. Page last reviewed October 24, 2022. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/index.html>. Accessed May 30, 2023.

CLINICAL POLICY

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4. Immunity types. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. Page last reviewed: September 24, 2021. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/immunity-types.htm>. Accessed May 30, 2023.

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	Approval Date
Removed language/table referencing age limits in product information. References reviewed and updated.	08/2018	
3Q 2019 annual review: No changes per Statewide PDL implementation 01-01-2020	07/2019	
3Q 2020 annual review: references reviewed and updated.	07/2020	
3Q 2021 annual review: references reviewed and updated.	07/2021	
3Q 2022 annual review: references reviewed and updated.	07/2022	
3Q 2023 annual review: updated format, added criteria and appendices; references reviewed and updated.	07/2023	