

Clinical Policy: Interferon Gamma-1b (Actimmune)

Reference Number: PA.CP.PHAR.52

Effective Date: 01/2018

Last Review Date: 01/2026

Description

Interferon gamma-1b (Actimmune[®]) is a recombinant form of gamma interferon.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Actimmune is indicated for:

- Reducing the frequency and severity of serious infections associated with Chronic Granulomatous Disease (CGD)
- Delaying time to disease progression in patients with severe, malignant osteopetrosis (SMO)

Policy/Criteria

It is the policy of PA Health & Wellness[®] that Actimmune is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Chronic Granulomatous Disease (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of chronic granulomatous disease (CGD);
2. Age \geq 1 year;
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with an immunologist, hematologist or infectious disease specialist;
4. Prescribed dose does not exceed one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Body surface area $> 0.5\text{m}^2$: 50 mcg/m² three times weekly;
 - b. Body surface area $\leq 0.5\text{m}^2$: 1.5mcg/kg three times weekly.

Approval duration: 12 months

B. Severe Malignant Osteopetrosis (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of severe malignant osteopetrosis (SMO) (also known as autosomal recessive osteopetrosis);
2. Age \geq 1 month;
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with an endocrinologist or rheumatologist;
4. Prescribed dose does not exceed one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Body surface area $> 0.5\text{m}^2$: 50mcg/m² three times weekly;
 - b. Body surface area $\leq 0.5\text{m}^2$: 1.5mcg/kg three times weekly.

Approval duration: 12 months

C. Mycosis Fungoides, Sezary Syndrome (off-label) (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of mycosis fungoides or Sezary syndrome;
2. Age \geq 18 years;
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist or hematologist;
4. Request meets one of the following (a, b, or c):
 - a. BSA $> 0.5\text{ m}^2$: Dose does not exceed 50 mcg/m² three times weekly;
 - b. BSA $\leq 0.5\text{ m}^2$: Dose does not exceed 1.5 mcg/kg three times weekly;

- c. Dose is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).

Approval duration: 12 months

D. Other diagnoses/indications: Refer to PA.CP.PMN.53

II. Continued Approval

A. All Indications in Section I (must meet all):

1. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Currently receiving medication via PA Health & Wellness benefit or member has previously met all initial approval criteria or Continuity of Care Policy (PA.PHARM.01) applies;
 - b. Documentation supports that member is currently receiving Actimmune for mycosis fungoides or Sezary syndrome and has received this medication for at least 30 days;
2. Member is responding positively to therapy;
3. If request is for a dose increase, request meets one of the following (a, b, or c):
 - a. $BSA > 0.5 \text{ m}^2$: New dose does not exceed 50 mcg/m² three times weekly;
 - b. $BSA \leq 0.5 \text{ m}^2$: New dose does not exceed 1.5 mcg/kg three times weekly.
 - c. New dose is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).

Approval duration: 12 months

B. Other diagnoses/indications (1 or 2):

1. Currently receiving medication via PA Health & Wellness benefit and documentation supports positive response to therapy or Continuity of Care Policy (PA.PHARM.01) applies.

Approval duration: Duration of request or 6 months (whichever is less); or

2. Refer to PA.CP.PMN.53

III. Appendix/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key

BSA: body surface area

CGD: chronic granulomatous disease

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

SMO: severe, malignant osteopetrosis

Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives

Not applicable

Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings

- Contraindication(s): hypersensitivity to interferon gamma, *E. coli* derived products, or any component of the product
- Boxed warning(s): none reported

IV. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
CGD, SMO	$BSA > 0.5 \text{ m}^2$: 50 mcg/m ² SC TIW	See dosing regimen

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
	BSA \leq 0.5 m ² : 1.5 mcg/kg/dose SC TIW	

V. Product Availability

Single-use vial for injection: 100 mcg (2 million IU)/0.5 mL

VI. References

1. Actimmune Prescribing Information. Lake Forest, IL: Horizon Pharma USA, Inc.; December 2024. Available at: www.actimmune.com. Accessed October 17, 2025.

Primary Immunodeficiency

2. Immune Deficiency Foundation. Diagnostic and clinical care guidelines for primary immunodeficiency diseases. Third edition. Copyrights 2008, 2009, 2015 the Immune Deficiency Foundation. Available at: https://primaryimmune.org/sites/default/files/publications/2015-Diagnostic-and-Clinical-Care-Guidelines-for-PI_1.pdf. Accessed November 5, 2025.

3. Bonilla FA, Khan DA, Ballas ZK, et al. Practice parameter for the diagnosis and management of primary immunodeficiency. J Allergy Clin Immunol. November 2015; 136(5): 1186-1205.

Osteopetrosis

4. Wu CC, Econs MJ, DiMeglio L, et al. Diagnosis and management of osteopetrosis: consensus guidelines from the Osteopetrosis Working Group. J Clin Endocrinol Metab September 2017;102(9):3111–23.

Oncology

5. Interferon Gamma-1b. In: National Comprehensive Cancer Network Drugs and Biologics Compendium. Available at www.nccn.org. Accessed November 5, 2025.

Coding Implications

Codes referenced in this clinical policy are for informational purposes only. Inclusion or exclusion of any codes does not guarantee coverage. Providers should reference the most up-to-date sources of professional coding guidance prior to the submission of claims for reimbursement of covered services.

HCPCS Codes	Description
J9216	Injection, interferon, gamma 1-b, 3 million units

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date
Removed diagnostic confirmatory tests and replaced with specialty prescriber requirement. References reviewed and updated.	02/2018
1Q 2019 annual review: references reviewed and updated.	01/2019
1Q 2020 annual review: off-label age increased to 18 years; removed requirement for confirmatory diagnostic tests for SMO; rheumatologist added as specialist for SMO; continuity of care added for oncology; references reviewed and updated.	01/2020
1Q 2021 annual review: references reviewed and updated.	01/2021

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date
1Q 2022 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	01/2022
1Q 2023 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	01/2023
1Q 2024 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	01/2024
1Q 2025 annual review: for CGD, added immunologist as an additional prescriber specialist option; for mycosis fungoides and Sezary syndrome, added hematologist as an additional prescriber specialist option; references reviewed and updated.	01/2025
1Q 2026 annual review: no significant changes; extended approval durations from 6 to 12 months for this maintenance medication for chronic conditions; references reviewed and updated.	01/2026