VACCINES

Policy Number: VACCINES 005.53 T0  
Effective Date: June 1, 2019

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CONDITIONS OF COVERAGE

Applicable Lines of Business/Products: This policy applies to Oxford Commercial plan membership.

Benefit Type: General benefits package

Referral Required: (Does not apply to non-gatekeeper products) No

Authorization Required: (Precertification always required for inpatient admission) No

Precertification with Medical Director Review Required: No

Applicable Site(s) of Service: All (If site of service is not listed, Medical Director review is required)

COVERAGE RATIONALE

Conditions:
The following conditions apply to all covered vaccines. A vaccine is considered covered after both of the following conditions are satisfied:

- US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval; and
- Explicit ACIP recommendations (e.g., should, shall, is) rather than a permissive ("may") recommendation published in the Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Coverage Clarifications:

- Preventive: For a list of vaccines that are covered under the preventive care benefit, see the Clinical Policy titled Preventive Care Services.
- Therapeutic: Certain vaccines are used as a medical treatment. For example, therapeutic treatment of an animal bite using the rabies vaccine. These vaccines are under the plan’s treatment benefits, not under preventive care benefits.
- Excluded: Vaccines that that fall under one of the exclusions in the member-specific benefit plan document. For example, most plans exclude travel-specific vaccines.

U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA)

See FDA approved product package inserts regarding precautions associated with each vaccine.
BENEFIT CONSIDERATIONS

Oxford covers certain services under the Preventive Care Services benefit. Effective for plan years on or after September 23, 2010, the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) requires non-grandfathered plans to cover certain preventive services identified by PPACA. For non-grandfathered plans, and for grandfathered plans wishing to offer such coverage, Oxford will cover preventive services as mandated by Federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), with no cost sharing when provided by a network provider for those vaccines with a definitive approval from Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Guidelines including the American Academy of Pediatrics Bright Futures periodicity guidelines.

REFERENCES

The foregoing Oxford policy has been adapted from an existing UnitedHealth Pharmaceutical Solutions Clinical Pharmacy Program that was researched, developed and approved by the UnitedHealthcare National Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee. [2019D0031N]


POLICY HISTORY/REVISION INFORMATION

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| 06/01/2019 | • Revised coverage rationale:  
  o Removed language indicating:  
    ▪ The standard Certificate of Coverage covers preventive health services, including immunizations, administered in a physician office; some immunizations are excluded, e.g., immunizations that are required for travel, employment, education, insurance, marriage, adoption, military service, or other administrative reasons  
    ▪ Implementation of covered vaccines will typically occur within 60 days after publication in the MMWR  
  o Updated conditions of coverage to clarify the following conditions apply to all covered vaccines; a vaccine is considered covered after both of the following conditions are satisfied:  
    ▪ US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval; and  
    ▪ Explicit ACIP recommendations (e.g., should, shall, is) rather than a permissive ("may") recommendation, published in the Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)  
  o Updated coverage clarification notations:  
    ▪ Modified instruction to clarify the policy titled Preventive Care Services should be referenced for a list of vaccines that are covered under the preventive care benefit  
    ▪ Added language to indicate:  
      - Certain vaccines are used as a medical treatment  
        ▪ For example, therapeutic treatment of an animal bite using the rabies vaccine  
        ▪ These vaccines are under the plan’s treatment benefits, not under preventive care benefits  
      - Vaccines that fall under one of the exclusions in the member-specific benefit plan document are excluded; for example, most plans exclude travel-specific vaccines  
    ▪ Updated supporting information to reflect the most current references |
INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

This Clinical Policy provides assistance in interpreting UnitedHealthcare Oxford standard benefit plans. When deciding coverage, the member specific benefit plan document must be referenced as the terms of the member specific benefit plan may differ from the standard plan. In the event of a conflict, the member specific benefit plan document governs. Before using this policy, please check the member specific benefit plan document and any applicable federal or state mandates. UnitedHealthcare Oxford reserves the right to modify its Policies as necessary. This Clinical Policy is provided for informational purposes. It does not constitute medical advice.

The term Oxford includes Oxford Health Plans, LLC and all of its subsidiaries as appropriate for these policies. Unless otherwise stated, Oxford policies do not apply to Medicare Advantage members.

UnitedHealthcare may also use tools developed by third parties, such as the MCG™ Care Guidelines, to assist us in administering health benefits. UnitedHealthcare Oxford Clinical Policies are intended to be used in connection with the independent professional medical judgment of a qualified health care provider and do not constitute the practice of medicine or medical advice.