Vaccines

Policy Number: VACCINES 005.54 T0
Effective Date: September 1, 2020

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Related Policy

- Preventive Care Services

Coverage Rationale

See Benefit Considerations

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 fall under one of the exclusions in the member-specific benefit plan document. For example, most plans exclude travel-specific vaccines.

Prior Authorization Requirements

No referral or prior authorization is required.

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.

**U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)**

This section is to be used for informational purposes only. FDA approval alone is not a basis for coverage.

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

**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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<th>Summary of Changes</th>
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<td>09/01/2020</td>
<td><strong>Template Update</strong>&lt;br&gt;● Reformatted policy; transferred content to new template&lt;br&gt;● Removed and replaced section titled <em>Conditions of Coverage</em> with <em>Prior Authorization Requirements</em>&lt;br&gt;● Simplified and relocated language pertaining to prior authorization guidelines&lt;br&gt;● Removed language addressing benefit type&lt;br&gt;● Replaced references to “precertification” with “prior authorization”&lt;br&gt;<strong>Supporting Information</strong>&lt;br&gt;● Archived previous policy version VACCINES 005.53 T0</td>
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**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.