
POLICY DETERMINATION



Nonprofit corporations and independent licensees
of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

***Current Policy Effective Date: 7/16/21**
(See policy history boxes for previous effective dates)

Title: Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, 15 valent (VAXNEUVANCE™)

Brief Description of Service:

In January 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration accepted Merck's 15-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV15) for priority review. PCV15 is comprised of serotypes 1, 3, 4, 5, 6A, 6B, 7F, 9V, 14, 18C, 19A, 19F, 22F, 23F, and 33F for the prevention of pneumococcal disease in adults and children. The vaccine includes serotypes 22F and 33F, which are commonly associated with invasive pneumococcal disease in older adults worldwide and are not contained in the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13) currently licensed for use in adults.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved this vaccine (also known as Vaxneuvance™) on July 16, 2021 for adults 18 years of age and older.

The CPT code for this vaccine is effective 7/1/21.

On January 28, 2022, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) published: Use of 15-Valent Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine and 20-Valent Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine Among U.S. Adults: Updated Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices - United States, 2022

"Adults aged 19–64 years with certain underlying medical conditions or other risk factors who have not previously received pneumococcal conjugate vaccine or whose previous vaccination history is unknown should receive 1 dose of PCV15). When PCV15 is used, it should be followed by a dose of 23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine.

Adults aged ≥65 years who have not previously received pneumococcal conjugate vaccine or whose previous vaccination history is unknown should receive 1 dose of PCV15. When PCV15 is used, it should be followed by a dose of 23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine."

Recommendation:

The pneumococcal conjugate 15-valent vaccine (VAXNEUVANCE™) is established. It has been approved by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration.

CPT/HCPCS Level II Codes *(Note: The inclusion of a code in this list is not a guarantee of coverage. Please refer to the medical policy statement to determine the status of a given procedure.)*

Established codes:

90671

Other codes (investigational, not medically necessary, etc.):

NA

References:

1. Stacey HL, Rosen J, Peterson JT, et al. Safety and immunogenicity of 15-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV-15) compared to PCV-13 in healthy older adults. Hum Vaccin Immunother. 2019; 15(3): 530-539. PMID 30648919
2. Merck submits applications for licensure of V14, the company's investigational 15-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, for use in adults to the U.S. FDA and European Medicines Agency. November 23, 2020. <https://www.merck.com/news/merck-submits-applications-for-licensure-of-v14-the-companys-investigational-15-valent-pneumococcal-> Accessed 4/13/21.
3. U.S. Food & Drug Administration. Approval letter Pneumococcal 15-valent Conjugate Vaccine. July 16, 2021. <https://www.fda.gov/media/150820/download>
4. Kobayashi M, Farrar JL, Gierke R, et al. Use of 15-Valent Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine and 20-Valent Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine Among U.S. Adults: Updated Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices — United States, 2022. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2022;71:109–117. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7104a1> Accessed 1/31/22.

Joint BCBSM/BCN Policy Determination History

Policy Effective Date	BCBSM Signature Date	BCN Signature Date	Comments
7/1/21	6/15/21		Joint policy established
7/16/21	2/15/22		From E/I to Established: based on FDA approval, ACIP recommendations, and accepted by CDC & published in MMWR 1/28/2022. Effective date is FDA approval date. This PDF is retired.

Next Review Date: This is an established procedure; it is no longer subject to routine review