POLICY DETERMINATION

Blue Cross Blue Shield Blue Care Network of Michigan

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

***Current Policy Effective Date: 5/1/25**
(See policy history boxes for previous effective dates)

Title: 90593-Chikungunya Virus (Recombinant) Vaccine

Brief Description of Service:

Chikungunya is a mosquito-borne viral disease caused by the chikungunya virus (CHIKV), anRNA virus in the alphavirus genus of the family Togaviridae. The name chikungunya derives from a word in the Kimakonde language, meaning “to become contorted”. CHIKV was first identified in the United Republic of Tanzania in 1952 and subsequently in other countries Africa and Asia. Urban outbreaks were first recorded in Thailand in 1967and in India in the 1970s. Since 2004, outbreaks of CHIKV have become more frequent and widespread, caused partly due to viral adaptations allowing the virus to be spread more easily by *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes.[1]

In symptomatic patients, CHIKV disease onset is typically 4–8 days (range 2–12 days) after the bite of an infected mosquito. It is characterized by an abrupt onset of fever, frequently accompanied by severe joint pain. The joint pain is often debilitating and usually lasts for a few days but may be prolonged, lasting for weeks, months or even years. Other common signs and symptoms include joint swelling, muscle pain, headache, nausea, fatigue and rash. Most patients recover fully from the infection; however, occasional cases of eye, heart, and neurological complications have been reported with CHIKV infections.[1]

VLA1553 is currently the only chikungunya vaccine candidate worldwide that received U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval in November 2023. In February 2024, the VLA1553 received recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

A recombinant vaccine (MV-CHIKV, V184) by Themis Bioscience has completed a phase III trial on the safety and effectiveness of this vaccine. There is currently no FDA approval for this vaccine.

Recommendation:

The Chikungunya virus (recombinant) vaccine is experimental/investigational. It has not been approved by the FDA.

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:

N/A

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

90593

References:

1. World Health Organization. Chikungunya, Key Facts. Available at: https://www.who.int. Accessed November 2024.
2. Valneva Press Release. Chikungunya-VLA1553. Available at: https://valneva.com. Accessed November 2024.
3. Valneva Press Release. Valneva announces PDUFA date extension for chikungunya virus candidate. Available at: https://valneva.com/press-release/valneaannounces-pdufa-date-extension-for-chikungunya-virus-vaccine-candidate/. Accessed November 2024.
4. Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). Recent meeting recommendations. February 2024. https://www.cdc.gov/acip/vaccine-recommendations/. Accessed November 2024.
5. Lentschner AJ, McAllister N, Griswold KA, et al. Chikungunya virus vaccine candidate incorporating synergistic mutations is attenuated and protects against virulent virus challenge. J Infect Dis. Feb 2023;227(3):457-465.
6. Weaver SC, Osorio JE, Livengood JA, et al. Chikungunya virus and prospects for a vaccine. Expert Rev Vaccines. Sept 2012;11(9):1087-1101.

Joint Blue Cross/BCN Medical Policy History

Policy Effective Date	Blue Cross Signature Date	BCN Signature Date	Comments
5/1/25	2/18/25		Joint policy established

Next Review Date: 1st Qtr., 2026