

Travel Vaccines

The purpose of this policy is to provide clarity and specificity for coverage of Travel Vaccines. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides guidance and health information for international travel based on the most current travel health guidelines, including pre-travel vaccine recommendations, destination-specific health advice, and easy-to-reference maps, tables, and charts.

DISCLAIMER

Coverage Policies are developed to assist in identifying coverage for UCare benefits under UCare’s health plans. They are intended to serve only as a general reference regarding UCare’s administration of health benefits and are not intended to address all issues related to coverage for health services provided to UCare members.

These services may or may not be covered by all UCare products (refer to product section of individual coverage policy for product-specific detail). Providers are encouraged to have their UCare patient refer to their UCare plan documents (Evidence of Coverage/Member Handbook/Member Contract) for specific coverage information. If there is a conflict between a coverage policy and the UCare plan documents, the UCare plan documents prevail.

Medicaid products may provide different coverage for certain services, which may be addressed in different policies. For Minnesota Health Care Program (MHCP) policies, please consult the MHCP Provider Manual website.

Medicare products may provide different coverage for certain services, which may be addressed in different policies. For Medicare National Coverage Determinations (NCD), Local Coverage Determinations (LCD), and/or Local Coverage Articles, please consult CMS, National Government Services, or CGS websites.

Coverage Policies do not constitute medical advice. Providers are responsible for submission of accurate and compliant claims.

PRODUCT SUMMARY

This coverage policy applies to the following UCare products:

UCare product	Applies to
UCare Individual & Family Plans (IFP), UCare IFP with M Health Fairview	✓
UCare Medicare Plans, UCare Medicare with M Health Fairview & North Memorial Health, UCare Advocate Plus (HMO I-SNP), EssentiaCare	
UCare’s Minnesota Senior Health Options (MSHO) (HMO D-SNP)	
UCare Connect + Medicare (HMO D-SNP)	
UCare Connect (SNBC)	
Prepaid Medical Assistance Program (PMAP), MinnesotaCare	
Minnesota Senior Care Plus (MSC+)	

Benefit category:

Injections or Immunizations

Definitions or summary

Vaccines protect travelers from getting diseases abroad that may not normally be found in the United States. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the following:

- **Prophylactic immunizations** refer to vaccines given to prevent symptoms of a disease.
- **Other vaccines may be needed prior to travel depending on destination, medical history, planned activities, and other health concerns.** Itinerary should be discussed with health care provider to confirm any destination-specific vaccines and medicines, such as yellow fever vaccine or medicine to prevent malaria.
- **Routine vaccines should be up-to-date.**

Routine vaccines

- Immunizations recommended for everyone in United States based on age, health condition, or other risk factors.
 - Examples include childhood vaccines before starting school
 - Vaccines routinely recommended for adults, either annually (i.e. flu vaccine) or every 10 years (i.e. tetanus booster for adults).

Recommended vaccines:

- Vaccines recommended by CDC
 - Even when not required for entry by the government of the country you are visiting.
 - Recommended vaccines are not part of the routine vaccination schedule.
 - These vaccines protect travelers from illnesses that are usually travel-related.
 - Vaccines recommended for a traveler depend on several things, including age, health, and itinerary.

Required vaccines

- Immunizations travelers **must have** to enter a country, based on that country's government regulations.
- CDC's *recommendation* is different from the country's *requirement*.
 - A vaccine *recommendation* is designed to keep a traveler from getting a disease; a vaccine *requirement* is the country's requirement to keep travelers from bringing a disease into the country.
- Vaccine requirements can change at any time because country's governments control those decisions.

Coverage policy

COVERED

- **Prophylactic immunizations required as a condition of travel are covered with appropriate member cost share and are not considered preventive.**
- Covered vaccinations for travel may be available at:
 - Medical clinic
 - Travel Clinic
 - Public Health Department
- **Type of vaccine needed may dictate where it can be provided. Not all health care settings will have all vaccines. Members should consult with their healthcare provider or review the CDC website for specific information on what vaccines are recommended or required for the country/countries they will be traveling to.** See references at the end of this document for links to the CDC website.

Travel Vaccines covered with cost share include:

- Anthrax vaccine, for subcutaneous or intramuscular use
- Bacillus Calmette-Guerin vaccine (BCG) for tuberculosis, live, for percutaneous use
- Cholera vaccine, live, adult dosage, 1 dose schedule, for oral use
- Zaire ebolavirus vaccine, live, for intramuscular use
- Japanese encephalitis virus vaccine, inactivated, for intramuscular use
- Rabies immune globulin (RIg), human, for intramuscular and/or subcutaneous use
- Rabies immune globulin, heat-treated (RIg-HT), human, for intramuscular and/or subcutaneous use
- Rabies vaccine, for intramuscular use
- Rabies vaccine, for intradermal use (HDCV)
- Tetanus immune globulin (TIg), human, for intramuscular use
- Tick-borne encephalitis virus vaccine, inactivated; 0.25 mL dosage, for intramuscular use
- Tick-borne encephalitis virus vaccine, inactivated; 0.5 mL dosage, for intramuscular use
- Typhoid vaccine, live, oral
- Typhoid vaccine, Vi capsular polysaccharide (ViCPs), for intramuscular use
- Yellow fever vaccine, live, for subcutaneous use

NOT COVERED

- Services outside of the United States are not covered under the IFP contract. This includes immunizations received in other countries.
 - Immunizations needed for business related travel.
 - Immunizations for individuals, *who by reason of their employment*, are involved in activities that place them at high risk for developing a disease deemed preventable by an immunization. **In these situations, the employer is responsible for the cost of the immunization**
 - Immunizations required because of an injury or immediate risk of infection *due to the member's employment*: **in these situations, the employer is responsible for the cost of the immunization.**

Prior authorization	
Not required	

Related policies and documentation	
<i>References to other policies or documentation that may be relevant to this policy</i>	
Policy Number	Policy Description
CP-IFP21-013B	Preventive Services Adults/Females/Children

References and source documents	
<i>Links to the UCare contracts, Center for Medicare, and Medicaid Services (CMS), MHCP, Minnesota statute and other relevant documents used to create this policy</i>	
Individual & Family Plans Member Documents and Information	
Individual & Family Plans Formulary	
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC);	
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): Travel Health	
Minnesota Department of Health (MDH):	

Coverage policy development and revision history		
Version	Date	Note(s)
V1	July 1, 2022	New policy
	Nov.30, 2022	Annual review; no changes
	Oct. 29, 2023	Annual review; no changes
	Oct. 7, 2024	Annual review; no changes